

2 men convicted in Pa. hate-crime beating death

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM, Associated Press Writer

SCRANTON, Pa. — A jury convicted two Pennsylvania men Thursday of a federal hate crime in the fatal beating of an illegal Mexican immigrant, finding they attacked the man primarily out of hatred for Hispanics. An all-white jury in Scranton convicted Derrick Donchak and Brandon Piekarsky of violating the civil rights of 25-year-old Luis Ramirez, who died in July 2008 following a confrontation with a group of white high school football players in the former mining town of Shenandoah.

The jury also convicted Donchak of two other counts related to a plot to cover up the beating.

Donchak, 20, sobbed as the verdict was read. Piekarsky, 18, put his head in his hands. Both were led away in handcuffs and ordered held behind bars pending their Jan. 24 sentencing. They could be sentenced to life in prison.

Crystal Dillman, who had two children with Ramirez, told The Associated Press she "couldn't be happier." "My family finally gets justice, well, some justice and Luis can finally rest a little bit easier in peace knowing that some justice was served," Dillman said. "It's like a burden's lifted off my chest to know that something was done for Luis."

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Nidal Malik Hasan Trial: Testimony Begins in Murder Case

In this courtroom sketch, Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, left, attends his Article 32 hearing as Col. James L. Pohl, right, a military judge acting as the investigating officer in the case listens to a defense attorney inside the U.S. Magistrate court Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010 in Fort Hood, Texas. Hasan, 40, is charged with premeditated murder and attempted premeditated murder in a Nov. 5 attack, which killed 13 people and wounded 32 others in a processing center where soldiers were making final preparations to deploy. The Article 32 hearing, which will determine whether there is enough evidence to put the Army psychiatrist on trial, was adjourned for the day Tuesday when defense attorneys asked for a nearly month-long delay.

(AP Photo/Pat Lopez)
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Chile miners start new lives, adjust to freedom

MICHAEL WARREN

Associated Press Writer

COPIAPO, Chile (AP) — The Chilean miners began their unfamiliar new lives as national heroes Thursday and got a taste of what awaits them outside the hospital doors — a deluge of TV producers, writers and even soccer teams all desperate for a piece of their story.

A day after their epic rescue, still wearing the oddly fashionable sunglasses that protected them from the bright light when they were hoisted from 2,000 feet underground, the men posed in hospital bathrobes for a group photo with President Sebastian Pinera.

Unity helped the men, known as "los 33," survive for 69 days underground, including more than two weeks when no one knew whether they were alive. But the moment they walk out the hospital doors, they'll go beyond the reach of a government operation that has cared for, fed and protected them in a carefully coordinated campaign to ensure each of them would be in top condition. "Now they're going to have to find their equilibrium and take care of themselves," the

hospital chaplain, the Rev. Luis Lopez, told The Associated Press. They got quite the

preview Thursday of what lies ahead. On their first full day of fresh air, the miners

were probably the 33 most in-demand people on the planet.

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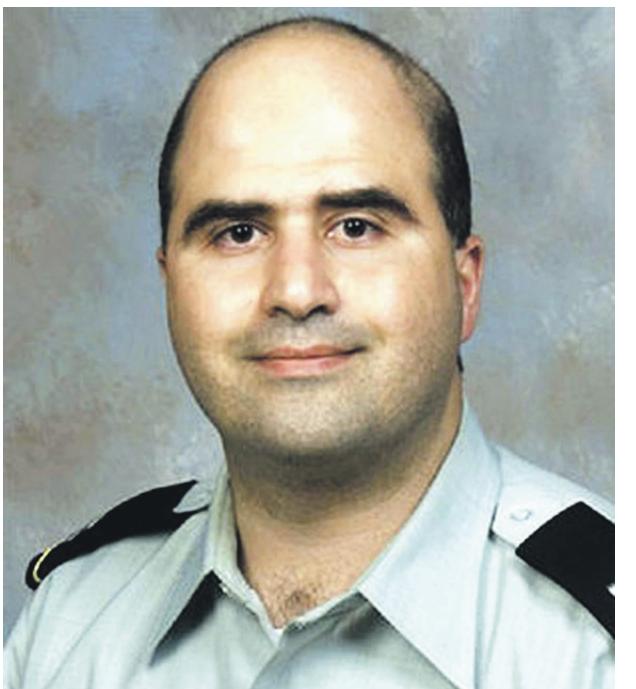
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Soldiers reacted at Fort Hood as if in combat



Major Nidal Malik Hasan is seen in this undated handout photo from a pdf file of the U.S. Government Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences downloaded on November 6, 2009.

By ANGELA K. BROWN
MICHAEL GRACZYK,
Associated Press Writers

FORT HOOD, Texas — Unarmed soldiers caught up in a deadly shooting rampage as they prepared to deploy from Fort Hood reacted as though they'd already reached a combat zone, playing dead to avoid

gunfire and refusing to leave fallen comrades behind, according to testimony Thursday at a military hearing. Most took just moments to realize the chaos of gunfire, smoke and a weapon's laser flashing across walls and bodies was not a drill, and their survival instincts and training kicked in.

"I laid back down on the ground and played dead," Spc. Alan Carroll, who was shot several times in the Nov. 5 attack, testified via video link from Kandahar, Afghanistan. "I tried to get up again and was shot again in the leg. I was holding my breath, trying not to move. ... If I was moving, I thought he would come to me." The Article 32 hearing will determine whether Maj. Nidal Hasan, who has been charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder, should stand trial. Prosecutors have not said whether they would seek the death penalty. On the second day of the hearing, several witnesses again said Hasan, an Army psychiatrist, shouted "Allahu Akbar!" — "God is Great!" in Arabic — before unleashing a volley of gunfire in a center where soldiers undergo medical tests before deploying. They testified that Hasan started firing toward a crowded waiting area, then walked around and shot soldiers trying to hide under desks, chairs or tables and only paused to reload.

In the days after last year's shooting, reports emerged that the 40-year-old American-born Muslim had been trying to get out of his pending deployment because he opposed the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Patrick Zeigler, who nearly died in the Nov.

5 attack, testified Thursday that he knows soldiers helped him after he was shot once in the head and three other times, then tried to crawl to safety and lost consciousness.

"I was in serious trouble. There was a pool of my own blood on the ground in front of me," said Zeigler, who testified after walking into court slowly with a cane, a large scar visible across his head. He said surgeons had to remove about 20 percent of his brain.

Spc. Grant Moxon told the court Thursday he played dead after being shot, then made his way behind a counter where other soldiers had ducked for cover. He said he leaned across his squadron leader in hopes of protecting the already wounded man from the onslaught of bullets. The squadron leader survived.

"He was bleeding pretty badly. He was my squadron leader. I kind of tried to help him," said Moxon, a member of the 467th Medical Detachment that had arrived at Fort Hood a day earlier. Hasan was supposed to deploy with the 467th.

Carroll said he tried to concentrate on helping his friend, Pfc. Aaron Thomas Nemelka, who had been shot in the neck. Carroll said he could have reached the door but refused to escape the bloodshed without Nemelka, "because I'd been told never leave a fallen comrade. That's what was going through my mind." Nemelka, Carroll and two other buddies, Spc. Frederick Greene and Pfc. Michael Pearson, had been chatting about their upcoming deployment while waiting in line for routine tests. Carroll was the only one of the four who survived the attack. □

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HATE CRIME

Continued from Front Page

Prosecutors alleged that Donchak and Piekarsky beat and kicked Ramirez because they didn't like Hispanics and wanted them out of their town.

"They showed no remorse that night ... no sense of responsibility for having beaten a man to the point of death," Justice Department prosecutor Myesha Braden told jurors Wednesday in her closing argument.

The defense said the fight stemmed from youthful aggression, not ethnic hatred, and cast Ramirez as a hothead more than willing to fight.

Defense attorneys William Fetterhoff and James Swetz called the verdict disappointing and pledged an appeal. Prosecutors declined to comment.

Witnesses gave conflicting, and at times confusing, accounts of the late-night brawl that pitted Ramirez — a short, stout man nicknamed "Caballo," Spanish for horse — against four drunken teenagers during a random encounter on the street.

Prosecutors and defense attorneys agreed that youth, testosterone and alcohol played a role. But they argued over the mindset of a quartet of belligerent teens who called Ramirez a "spic," told him to go back to Mexico and assaulted the immigrant with their fists and feet.

Federal charges were brought against Piekarsky and Donchak after another all-white jury acquitted them of serious state charges. Hispanic activists decried the May 2009 verdict, calling Ramirez's death part of a rising tide of hate crimes against Latinos. They and Gov. Ed Rendell appealed for a Justice Department prosecution. □

NY county creating list of animal abusers

FARMINGVILLE, N.Y. — You've heard of Megan's Laws, designed to keep sex offenders from striking again. Now there's a law created in the hope of preventing animal abusers from inflicting more cruelty or moving on to human victims.

Suffolk County, on the eastern half of Long Island, moved to create the nation's first animal abuse registry this week, requiring people convicted of cruelty to animals to register or face jail time and fines.

"We know there is a very strong correlation between animal abuse and domestic violence," said Suffolk County legislator Jon Cooper, the bill's sponsor. "Almost every serial killer starts out by torturing animals, so in a strange sense we could end up protecting the lives of people."

The online list will be open to the public, so that pet owners or the merely curious can find out whether someone living near them is on it. Some animal abusers have been known to steal their neighbors' pets.

Cooper is also pushing legislation that would bar anyone on the registry from buying or adopting a pet from a shelter, pet shop or breeder.

The law was prompted by a number of animal abuse cases in recent months, including that of a Selden woman accused of forcing her children to watch her torture and kill kittens and dozens of dogs, then burying the pets in her backyard.

Animal welfare activists hope the law, passed unanimously Tuesday in the suburban New York City county of 1.5 million people, will inspire governments nationwide in the same way Megan's Law registries for child molesters have proliferated in the past decade.

A spokesman for county Executive Steve Levy said he intends to sign the legislation. It then requires a six-month review by state officials before it goes on the books, said the spokesman, Dan Aug. As Fred Surbito took his Yorkshire terrier, Sasha, in for grooming at a Farmingville pet store this week, he applauded the legislation.

"It's very, very important," he said. "If you don't love an animal, you should not have an animal. An animal is part of your family. Like your children, they should never be neglected or harmed. Anybody that does should never own a pet again."

More than a dozen states have introduced legislation to establish similar registries, but Suffolk County is the first government entity to pass such a law, said Stephan Otto, director of legislative affairs for the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

The Suffolk County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals will administer the database, to be funded by a \$50 fee paid by convicted abusers. All abusers 18 or older must supply authorities with their address, a head-and-shoulders photograph and any aliases. Convicted abusers will remain on the registry for five years. Those failing to register face up to a year in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000. After the 2009 arrest of Sharon McDonough, accused of burying kittens and as many as 42 dogs in her yard, neighbors whose pets had disappeared feared the worst. But authorities later concluded that McDonough who is expected in court this month and could get up to two years in prison if convicted bought the animals or adopted them through shelters or other traditional outlets. □



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Obama goes after youth vote, gets a grilling

By BEN FELLER,
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Going after the youth vote, President Barack Obama got a grilling Thursday from a mostly under-30 crowd of adults, who sternly challenged him across his economic and social agenda and showed little hesitation to press him for greater results.

The tone at the president's latest town hall was set from the start when a woman identifying herself as a Republican asked Obama about his inability to foster his promised bipartisanship, and then a man disaffected with the state of the economy asked Obama: "Why should we still support you?"

What emerged was a sharp, genuine question-and-answer session, not the easy conversation Obama had with supporters just two days earlier when even he acknowledged that one question was a softball. The latest event was sponsored by MTV, BET and CMT, three entertainment networks. Yet there was hardly a moment of levity, let alone an easy question and nothing close to the time President Bill Clinton was asked at an MTV town hall about his underwear preference.

Obama got pressed about race relations, unemployment and taxes, illegal drugs and immigration, racism, Social Security, discrimination and bullying, Cuba, Sudan, education and the environment. The tone and scope of the questions seemed to dominate more than Obama's answers.

Still, for Obama, it gave him a broad pre-election forum to explain his record of the last 20 months and, at times, testily defend it. His goal is to engage voters and try to rally them behind Democrats in the Nov. 2 midterm elections, in which his party is up against huge head winds and control of Congress is at stake.

The newsiest moment came when Obama defended his commitment to ending the ban on openly gay military service known as 'don't ask, don't tell.'

A Howard University faculty member who said she voted for Obama in 2008 wondered about his "alleged commitment to equality for all Americans, gay and straight." She asked why Obama didn't just wipe away the controversial military policy himself instead of waiting for Congress. He responded that he had not just mentioned his stand on the issue, as the questioner had put it, but declared it, including in a State of the Union address. "That's point No. 1," Obama insisted.

The president said his administration is working to end the ban but Congress must act, too, because the current policy is the law of the land. "This policy will end, and it will end on my watch," Obama said. "But I do have an obligation to make sure that I'm following some of the rules. I can't simply ignore laws that are out there." He spoke even as his Justice Department asked a federal judge Thursday to allow the "don't ask, don't tell" policy



President Barack Obama participates in a youth town hall event broadcast live on BET, CMT and MTV networks, Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010, in Washington.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

to continue while it appeals her order to end the ban on gays serving openly. Obama wants an orderly ending to the ban, and his government argues the court ruling would be disruptive in a time of war. Most of the exchanges at the town hall were not contentious, but serious throughout.

Moderators asked young people on the social networking site Twitter to send in their greatest hopes and greatest fears for the country. Among the ones relayed to Obama: that the U.S. is turning into a communist country — and that Obama will be re-elected. Responded the president: "This is an example of how our political rhetoric gets spun up," Obama said. "The Internet

and Twitter and all these things are very powerful, but it also means that sometimes instead of having a dialogue, we just start calling each other names."

The president, seeking to recapture the voter energy of his 2008 campaign and channel it toward the upcoming midterm elections, is not on the ballot this time. But in campaigning to keep his Democratic allies in the House and Senate in power, he found himself as the focus time and again.

One man worried about his taxes going up and questioned the effectiveness of the massive economic stimulus plan that Obama endorsed. Obama responded that the

stimulus is working — "3 million folks are working now that would not otherwise be working" — and said most people have gotten a tax cut on his watch.

On harassment and bullying, Obama said his "heart breaks" when he hears about incidents like the one at Rutgers University last month in which a college freshman committed suicide after an intimate encounter he had with another man was broadcast on the Internet. The president says he and the first lady spend time talking with their two young daughters about putting themselves in other people's shoes and recognizing that being different is a positive, not a negative, quality. □



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Phoenix police officer charged with murder

PHOENIX — A Phoenix police officer has been indicted on a second-degree murder charge for the on-duty shooting of an unarmed suspect during a violent encounter in which he also shocked the victim with a stun gun and killed his dog, officials said Thursday.

Officer Richard Chrisman was served a summons on the indictment and was not taken into custody, said his defense attorney Craig Mehrens. The indictment also charged him with aggravated assault and misdemeanor cruelty to animals. He previously was charged with aggravated assault but remains free on bail. Maricopa County Attorney Rick Romley said at a press conference that Chrisman will remain free on \$150,000 bail he posted after his initial arrest last week. His arraignment is set for Oct. 21. Chrisman allegedly pulled his pistol, put it against 29-year-old Danny Frank Rodriguez's head and told him he didn't need a warrant when Rodriguez ordered him out of his house on Oct. 5. During the next few minutes, Chrisman shocked Rodriguez with a stun gun, shot his pit bull, then fatally shot Rodriguez, according to a court document.

Records show another officer told investigators he saw no reason for Chrisman to shoot. Mehrens said his client was justified in shooting Rodriguez and did not put his gun against his head as the other officer reportedly said. □

Friends: Missing girl had happy life in Australia

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Though Zahra Clare Baker was battling cancer that forced her to wear hearing aids and a prosthetic leg, friends who knew her in Australia say she was an outgoing, caring, happy girl.

Then her lonely single father moved her halfway around the world to North Carolina so he could live with a woman he met on the Internet. Now the 10-year-old with the freckles and wide smile is missing and presumed dead, and friends and family thousands of miles away are waiting anxiously for word about her fate.

"She was one of the bravest little girls you'll ever have the pleasure of meeting," Kim Wright, 44, a close friend of the family, told The Associated Press in a phone interview from Giru, Australia, where Zahra lived until two years ago. "She was always thinking of others."

Zahra's father and stepmother reported her missing over the weekend, saying they had last seen her in her bed at their home in Hickory, about 50 miles northwest of Charlotte, early on the morning of Oct. 9.

Police say they don't believe them. They've had trouble finding anyone outside Zahra's house who has seen her alive in recent months. That's made it difficult to narrow down places to search. "We've been going back and talking to everyone we can," Hickory Deputy Chief Clyde Deal said Thursday.

Zahra's stepmother, 42-year-old Elisa Baker, is jailed, accused of trying to throw off investigators with a fake

ransom note. Her court-appointed attorney, Scott Reilly, says she is "scared to death" and very emotional about everything.

Zahra's father, Adam Baker, 33, hasn't been charged, but investigators haven't ruled him out as a suspect. Several telephone messages left for Adam Baker were not returned Thursday. Wright said friends and family in Australia still hope Zahra is alive. She became friends with the little girl four years ago at a cancer fundraising event. She was sitting in a chair waiting for her head to be shaved to raise money when Zahra approached, took her hand and told her not to be scared. Wright became something of a surrogate mother to the girl, whose biological mother left when she was a baby. Adam Baker raised her after that with help from his parents, Wright said, taking time off from the sugar mill where he worked so he could be with Zahra when she was diagnosed with bone cancer about five years ago. Wright described a phone call from Zahra when she was in a children's hospital waiting to have her leg amputated.

"She told me they were having trouble with her leg because she was really sick. But then she said: 'It's OK because I'm going to be getting a Barbie leg so I don't want you to get upset,'" Wright said. "That little kid was more concerned about what I was feeling than what she was going through." A few months later, doctors discovered tumors in her lungs. She had chemotherapy, but the treatment led to a partial hearing loss. Still, she



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remained upbeat, attending a camp for children with cancer and inspiring her fellow campers by taking part in all of the physical activities.

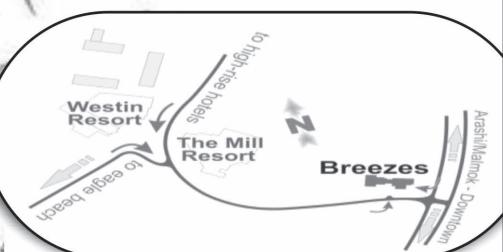
"She was missing a limb but she could still do anything that the other kids could do," said camp manager Mark McGregor. □

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Mexico: Alleged chat between lawmaker, capo leaked

Forensic police officers work at the crime scene where a body of a woman was found inside a car in Ciudad Juarez, northern Mexico, Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010. Ciudad Juarez has become one of Mexico's deadliest cities as drug gangs continue to battle for control of smuggling routes.

Associated Press

E. EDUARDO CASTILLO,

Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A radio station broadcast what it described as a telephone conversation in which a federal lawmaker and one of Mexico's biggest drug lords express support for each other.

W Radio said the alleged conversation took place last year between lawmaker Cesar Godoy Toscano and La Familia cartel leader Servando Gomez, known as "La Tuta." In it, Godoy and Gomez express support for each other and discuss bribing a reporter.

Godoy represents the western state of Michoacan, La Familia's stronghold. He already faces federal charges for allegedly protecting the cartel but has immunity from arrest because he is a congressman.

He was one of 36 people in Michoacan — including politicians, mayors, prosecutors, police and judges — accused last year of ties to La Familia, known for beheading rivals and bold attacks on soldiers and police.

W Radio said the conversation was included among evidence federal prosecutors sent to Congress in a petition to have Godoy's immunity lifted. The station did not say how it obtained the recording.

Officials at the Attorney General's Office refused to confirm or deny the authenticity of the recording.

The press office at Mexico's lower house of congress said Godoy would not comment. The lawmaker, of the leftist Democratic Revolution Party, or PRD, has previously proclaimed his innocence.

In the recording, a man identified by W Radio as Gomez expresses support for Godoy and certainty that he will win the election.

"Buddy, first of all I want you to win. ... You can count on full support, you are going to win," the voice says.

The conversation also mentions an unidentified Mexican reporter in the pay of La Familia. The man identified as Godoy expresses his annoyance that the reporter published articles critical of his party and asks Gomez to do something about it.

Godoy — half brother of Michoacan Gov. Leonel Godoy — was the only one of the 36 suspects who escaped arrest in the sweep last year.

At the time a candidate for congress, Godoy fled and continued his campaign from hiding. Despite the charges against him, he won his congressional seat in July 2009 elections.

Godoy remained in hiding for more than a year until he unexpectedly showed up at Congress last month and was sworn in after evading police officers who had surrounded the building to arrest him. Federal prosecutors are legally barred from arresting him but filed a petition to have his immunity lifted, which could require a congressional vote.

PRD Secretary-General Hortensia Aragon said that if the recorded telephone call is legitimate, Godoy Toscano should step down as legislator temporarily so he can face justice. □

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British Anti-Islam group seeks U.S. Tea Party ties

GREGORY KATZ

Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — Tentative links are developing between supporters of the Tea Party movement in the United States and right-wing fringe groups in Britain that are opposed to what they call the "Islamification" of Europe. The movements are not formally aligned, but the relatively new English Defense League — which warns that Islamic fundamentalism will soon engulf Britain — is seeking guidance and inspiration from some U.S. figures taking a similar stance.

The British activists are less drawn to the anti-tax, anti-big-government Tea Party message and more attracted to elements taking an active stance against the spread of Islam, like Rabbi Nachum Shiffren, a long-shot Republican candidate for the California state legislature who plans to visit England next week in a trip sponsored in part by the English Defense League.

The trip was organized by Roberta Moore, an English Defense League activist who has formed a "Jewish division" of the group. She said the rabbi will speak at an Oct. 24 rally in London.

"He plans to speak about the dangers of Islamification both in this country and in America," Moore told The Associated Press. "He will talk about the issues we have with immigration and the danger of Sharia law coming to the UK. We have the same objectives as the groups in

the USA, and we want to exchange information and work with them."

Matthew Goodwin, a University of Nottingham professor and author of a new book about extremist groups in Britain, said the links being developed with American activists are potentially important.

"We're seeing groups across Europe trying to form a transnational challenge to Islam," he said. "Going to the United States is particularly interesting because the far right in Britain has never gone that way, it has always gone toward Europe. If it did forge strong links to the Tea Party, it would be important because the Tea Party has significant resources."

He said the English Defense League has gained momentum in the last year and can now draw roughly one thousand people to its confrontational rallies. The membership includes mostly white, working class men, including many with links to football hooliganism, he said.

Some English Defense League protests have turned into clashes with police and the group Unite Against Fascism, which opposes the anti-Muslim movement.

Shiffren — sometimes called the surfing rabbi because of his penchant for riding the waves — has given talks at Tea Party events. He said in a telephone interview that he plans to warn Britons that their country is being lost as fundamentalist Islam gains strength.

"I see England going down and I want to cry out and do everything I can to prevent that, to work with the EDL," he said.

Moore said the English Defense League has also reached out to Pamela Geller, the prominent U.S. activist who leads an organization called Stop Islamization of America.

Geller said she supports the English group's approach but has not met with its leaders or agreed to any joint projects.

"I share their goal of resisting Islamic supremacism and defending free societies," she said.

British businessman Alan Lake, who said he is "heavily involved" with the English Defense League and other like-minded groups, believes it is important to reach out to activists in the United States and on mainland Europe.

"The benefit of joining with these other organizations is logistical and political, but also emotional," he said. "It's such a relief to find people in other countries who feel the way you do." □



A member of the English Defence League, a far-right group that campaigns against Islamic extremism, stands outside the American embassy in London, England on the ninth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

Associated Press



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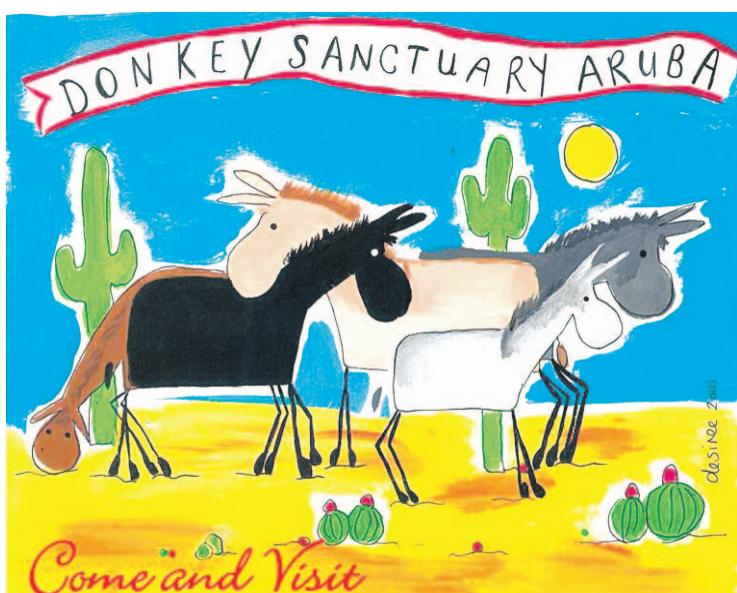
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CHILE MINERS**Continued from Front Page**

A Greek mining company wants to bring them to the sunny Aegean islands, competing with rainy Chiloe in Chile's southern archipelago, whose tourism bureau wants them to stay for a week.

Soccer teams in Madrid, Manchester and Buenos Aires want them in their stadiums. Bolivia's president wants them at his palace. TV host Don Francisco wants them all on his popular "Sabado Gigante" show in Miami. Hearing that miner Edison Pena jogged regularly in the tunnels below the collapsed rock, the New York City marathon invited him to participate in next month's race.

What about a reality show? Some other kind of TV work? Why not, said television

writer-producer and Oscar nominee Lionel Chetwynd, who said he expected projects were being pitched around Hollywood within hours of the rescue.

"Television is a quick-response medium," he said, joking: "In fact, I think I'll call my agent when we get off the phone."

Doctors said three of the men could be discharged from the hospital as early as Thursday evening, with others following Friday and over the weekend. Meanwhile, the families and friends of the men of the San Jose mine were organizing welcome-home parties, street celebrations, big dinners and even a few weddings, while trying at the same time to hold off the onslaught of demands from the media to learn more about how they survived.

The government promised six months of psychological



In this photo released by the Chilean Presidential Press Office, Chile's President Sebastian Pinera, fourth right first row, sits among the 33 miners freed from the San Jose mine during a visit to the hospital where they are undergoing a medical check up in Copiapo, Chile, Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010. The 69-day underground ordeal reached its end Wednesday night after the trapped miners were hauled up in a cage through a narrow hole drilled through 2,000 feet of rock.

Associated Press

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treatment and help with medical needs. It made sure each has a bank account only he can operate, and coached them on dealing with the media.

The rescue team even asked Guinness World Records to honor all 33 with the record for longest time trapped underground, rather than the last miner out, Luis Urzua. Guinness spokeswoman Jamie Panas said the organization was studying the question.

The men certainly have an extraordinary story to tell. No one before them had been trapped so long and survived. Their rescue, one by one throughout the day Wednesday in a narrow capsule, set car horns and vuvuzelas blasting around Chile.

At least one of the men kept a diary of life down below. Victor Segovia, a 48-year-old electrician and father of five, scribbled down so many details during their time underground that he had to ask the crews to send down more pencils and paper. He was the 15th miner pulled out.

Psychiatrists and other experts predict their lives will be anything but normal now that they're free. Previously unimaginable riches awaited them after years, in some cases whole careers, going into mines for about \$1,600 a month.

Most of the rescued miners

live in Copiapo, a gritty, blue-collar city surrounded by the Acatama desert where street vendors have been hawking Chilean flags bearing the faces of "Los 33." They must decide whether to return to mining. Many of their relatives are dead-set against it, for obvious reasons, but they also acknowledged that they probably couldn't stop the miners from going down again.

Mario Medina Mejia, a local geologist, said plenty of Chilean miners have returned underground after close calls, and he compared it to sailors who survive shipwrecks only to ride the waves again.

"If they need the work they will return to the mine," he said. "It's their life, their culture, the way they make their living."

For his part, Pinera, the Chilean president, faces a new reality as well. He was a defining face of the rescue, embracing Luis Urzua when he climbed out of the pod to become the 33rd miner out, then leading a joyous crowd in the national anthem.

"They have experienced a new life, a rebirth," he said, and so has Chile: "We aren't the same that we were before the collapse on Aug. 5. Today Chile is a country much more unified, stronger and much more respected and loved in the entire world." □

Somali-American is new prime minister

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — Somalia's president named a new prime minister on Thursday, bringing into the government a Somali-American who has taught at a community college in New York state.

Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed replaces Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, who had a long-running feud with the president and resigned last month. A statement from the Somali government said that Mohamed is a former Somali diplomat. He worked in the Somali Embassy in Washington from 1985 to 1988, according to the government's website.

Mohamed has taught conflict resolution and leadership skills at Erie Community College, a member of the State University of New York (SUNY) system, according to his resume. He has a master's degree in political science from SUNY-Buffalo, it said.

Mohamed will be asked to name a Cabinet within one month.

Mark Bowden, a top U.N. official with

oversight of Somalia, said Mohamed's Cabinet is expected to be smaller than the bloated group of politicians that Sharmarke had control over. Among officials in Sharmarke's Cabinet was a minister of tourism in a violence-plagued country that sees only a handful of tourists each year. Somalia's Transitional Federal Government controls only a few blocks of Mogadishu and is generally seen as corrupt, weak and ineffective. The government has accomplished little since its inception in 2004. Somalia hasn't had a fully functioning government since 1991, when warlords overthrew the president.

The U.S. last month announced a new, dual track approach to Somalia that will see continued American support of the transitional government but also new, direct support of other groups and regions in Somalia. The new approach includes increased support to the semiautonomous Somali regions of Somaliland and Puntland. □



In this handout photo made available by the Somalia's Presidential Press Service, Somalia's new Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, during a briefing at the presidential palace, in Mogadishu, Somalia, Thursday Oct. 14, 2010.

Associated Press

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LOCAL

Aruba TODAY

California Harvest
Wine Affinities
Dinner

**Prepare
yourself for a
spectacular
culinary
evening at the
Hyatt Resort**

PALM BEACH - A spectacular, culinary evening is coming up at the lovely Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort & Casino. Held on Thursday, October 28, it is called the 'California Harvest Wine Affinities Dinner' because of the fact that it is still wine harvest time in California and several fall harvested fruits and vegetables are on the menu. "A crisp fall day should be in mind," suggests executive chef Victor Litkewycz. The wines that are poured belong to the best of the Kendall Jackson Estate wines; the menu itself has been inspired and selected with these fabulous wines in mind. The Arion Wine Company is Kendall Jackson's and Jackson Estates' representative on Aruba.

The evening is made up of various parts: It starts off with a half-hour wine seminar by the regional manager of Jackson Wines and Director of Education for the Americas division, Mark Kilbride. After finishing number one in his basic Sommeliers certification, Mark earned the Presidential Blue Ring Success Award, presented to the top performer of Jackson Family Wines. In the past six years he has continued to educate aspiring sommeliers at the US Sommeliers Association, specializing in Wine and Food Affinities.

Continued on Page A11

PRESIDENTIAL CARIBBEAN CUP MOVES TO ARUBA



ORANJESTAD - THE PREMIER SPORT FISHING CIRCUIT OF THE AMERICAS. DEDICATED TO THE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF BILLFISH AND INSHORE GAMEFISH

The island nation of Aruba has become one of the

most sought-after vacation destinations in the world, and now it's poised to become one of the hottest fishing venues in the entire Caribbean.

For 2010, the Presidential Caribbean Cup will call this island nation home, as it hosts its

"First truly International Billfishing competition".

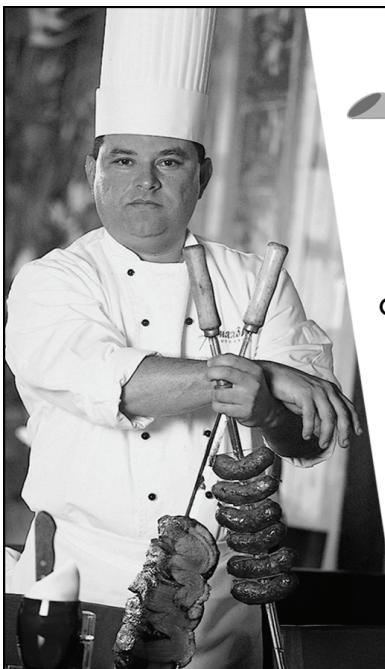
The event is tentatively scheduled for October 20-22, 2010, which should coincide perfectly with the height of the marlin season.

Aruba enjoys a sunny climate and offers a stable government, safe, family-friendly environment, good year-round weather out of the hurricane belt and convenient air service, in

addition to magnificent beaches, world-class SCUBA diving and fantastic billfishing. While the island's offshore action has mostly flown under the radar of the international angler, the 2010 Presidential Caribbean Cup is set to change that, as teams from around the world will descend upon the island.

"For years, the area's marlin fishery has been somewhat unknown just because there haven't been many boats fishing specifically for billfish," according to tournament coordinator Joan Vernon. "But in the past few seasons, Capt. Bubba Carter, Capt. Butch Cox and others have made exploratory trips to Aruba and have found excellent fishing for both blue and white marlin with the occasional sailfish. We look forward to bringing the Presidential Caribbean Cup to Aruba in order to showcase just how good the fishing can be here." Formoreinformationonthis exciting new event, please visit www.preschallenge.com or contact tournament coordinator Joan Vernon at joan@preschallenge.com. □





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Prepare yourself for a spectacular culinary evening at the Hyatt Resort



Continued from Page A10

At the California Harvest Wine Affinities Dinner, Mr. Kilbride will be exploring the intricacies of food and wine pairing. Afterwards there is an 'Alfresco' cocktail reception in the chic lobby bar of the resort, followed by a five-course dinner at their signature restaurant Ruinas del Mar..

As the swans gracefully swim past you in the lagoon, the first course will be served: hand harvested diver scallop, heart of palm puree, Nueske's bacon pistachios and grapefruit gastrique. The wine poured to the appetizer is a 2008 Matanzas Creek Sauvignon Blanc from Sonoma County and it counterbalances this dish perfectly with its soft, honeyed elements that weave through the wine's overall crispness.

The second course is a yellowtail tuna with shaved vegetables and a tropical fruit vinaigrette, served with a Kendall Jackson Vintner's Reserve Chardonnay, California 2008, bursting with tropical flavors such as mango and pineapple. Sensual yet dry, this wine has a light

creamy finish.

The third course to savor is spiced duck confit, truffled duck breast, celery root ravioli, brown butter sage and foie gras sauce, enhanced by a Byron Pinot Noir, Santa Maria Valley 2008: a bit more robust than the previous two wines, yet soft and velvety on the palate.

The main course of the fantastic event is called 'Head to Tail'. It is the highlight of the menu and incorporates four different aspects of beef, each prepared in its own unique way while playing harmoniously to the bold characteristics and profile of the wine. Head to Tail is made up of tongue and cheek, garlic confit, Wagyu sirloin, sea salt marrow bone, braised root vegetable, papas criollas and oxtail. A superb Freemark

Abbey Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley 2008 will be the course's crowning glory. Winemaker Ted Edwards of this 1886 winery in the Napa Valley is justified to be proud of this Cabernet, which is full-bodied, filled to the brim with intriguing notes of nuts, earth and dark fruit.

Complete this heavenly evening with a passion fruit crème caramel dessert, dehydrated fruit chips and star anise jus while enjoying a delicate late harvest Chardonnay, Monterey 2006 "Wine makes every meal an occasion, every table more elegant, every day more civilized."

Andre Simon, Commonsense of Wine

Come and experience Authentic Island Chic for US \$ 125 per person excluding service charge. Price includes the short seminar by Mark Kilbride held from 18.30 until 19.00; the reception will take place at 19.00 hrs, followed by the highly anticipated wine dinner and the abundance of terrific wines. For reservations please call 586 1234 extension 36; please reference Wine Dinner. □





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Who are you, Peter?

1st October 2010 — 9th January 2011

Oranjestad—"Who are you, Peter?": the question that opens the 13th exhibition at the Espace culturel Louis Vuitton invites the visitor to explore a fantastical land in which childhood and creation converse with, inspire and galvanise each other. Peter Pan is the boy who refuses to grow up. He lives in childhood as if it were a kind of utopia: without worrying about the impossible, limits or destiny. His imagination is his most loyal ally, nourishing the inexhaustible stream of adventures in which he is always the hero.

From the pen of the Scotsman James Matthew Barrie in 1904, Peter Pan has become a contemporary myth, a symbol

of the eternal child. His genius has recently been reduced to a syndrome: Peter Pan syndrome is said to describe people running away from their adult responsibilities. But is Peter Pan characterised by the creation of unprecedented worlds? Good question... What if Peter Pan represented the creative side in each of us, the side that, in the words of the psychoanalyst D. W. Winnicott, "gives the feeling that life is worth living"? This dimension is where boldness and the impossible meet, expanding the world towards the unknown. Peter Pan certainly inhabited the soul of Christopher Columbus and Leonardo da Vinci, whose drawings of planes prove to

what extent the utopia of one age becomes commonplace in another. Thirteen contemporary artists are taking over the Espace culturel Louis Vuitton, each choosing to explore one aspect of the myth, together sketching a portrait of the troublemaker. Melonie Hennessy's installation penetrates time and Laurent Pernot envisages death and eternity. Virginie Yassef, with a giant gold nugget, opens up another world that Arnaud Kalos evokes in a film in which shadows interrupt the treasure of

childhood. Grégoire Bourdeil takes the pirates by surprise, Jérôme Zonder ventures into the amplitude of love and hate, and the Chinese Ji Ji descends on earth while dreaming. In the window display on rue de Bassano, Jean-Philippe Illanès presents Peter Pan's house, in which the objects have been strangely revisited. The Argentinian Marina de Caro imagines utopias of education and the Hydrophile (giant soft toy) video by Nicolas Julliard plumbs the ocean depths. Janaina Tschäpe proposes the ecology of Neverland, Peter Pan's island where Lothar Hempel stages charades and Michel François the construction of ideas.

It has to be said: all children,

if they are not hindered, desperately want to grow up. And adults who remain in touch with the Peter Pan inside them become people who re-enchant the world, as the adventurer T.E. Lawrence so eloquently wrote in his autobiography: "All men dream: but not equally. Those who dream at night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake in the day to find it was vanity: but the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act their dream with open eyes, to make it possible. This I did."

Press contact: Louis Vuitton; Press Relations Latin America & South Africa Priscila Monteiro; +551138978124; p.monteiro@br.vuitton.com



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HUMAN HINTS

Automatic Emotional Reaction

It's hard to break our patterns. Even when we get out of them for a moment, we naturally fall back into them, usually without even knowing it. Even after we become aware of our automatic reactions, they still happen.

Emotional patterns are stored in the physical body, and the body reacts beyond our conscious control. No matter how ridiculous and nonsensical we know our emotional reactions to be, we still feel very intensely, against all logic. Our emotional reactions are a part of our physical body, and the body (ego) is afraid to let go because our automatic reactions have protected us in the past.

The body doesn't realize that past conditions no longer exist, and the type of protection that was once absolutely necessary for survival, is now completely debilitating. So what can we do?

Become aware of your body's automatic emotional reactions. Recognize your emotional patterns while they are happening. They are still going to happen, but as you become more aware of them, you will gain the power to change them. If you feel your automatic patterns emerging, look for the trigger. Then consciously relax your muscles, take a few deep breaths and tell your body that there is no reason to react this way. Tell your cells that the threat is gone and it is ok to release the outdated emotional response. Then find the courage and act as if the body's patterns are gone, even if they are still there.

This won't stop you from having the same reaction in the future, but if you continue to reassure it, your body will let go in

time. With courage, we can learn to release the outdated reactions that your body still clings to for survival.

Until Tomorrow.

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in

Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has studied many avenues of alternative thought.

HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to

consciously create any future you chose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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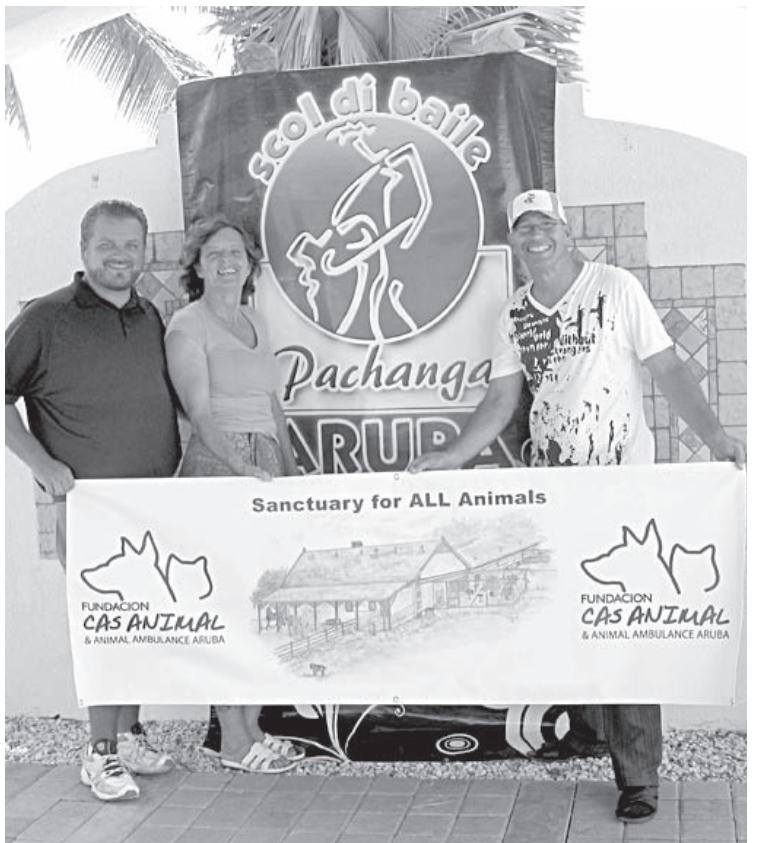
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World Animal day coming out of the rain



MALMOK - A tropical depression can delay, but not stop the charity golftournament at Tierra del sol for Foundation Cas Animal. The second event this year to raise money to build the sanctuary for all animals in need on Aruba. As a coproductions between Adam Williamson from Tierra del Sol and Kirsten Arndt from Foundation Cas Animal.

The golfing starts at 12pm and every golfer on Aruba is very much welcome to sign up for the 2 person scramble. Shotgun start is at 12:30pm. The participation fee is \$85 per person including the Happy Hour After Party. To sign up please contact the Pro Shop at Tierra del sol at phone number #586 0978 or send your email to: adam.williamson@tierradelsol.com.



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For more information please call Kiki Arndt via Cell #7428732 or #5652130. □

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home in New Hampshire. The lovely couple added memories to their once in a life time commitment by taking a tour of some of Aruba's most romantic locations in a classic car. Their intimate experience was coordinated by Indira Maduro of Aruba's Fairy Tales. They enjoyed their afternoon by starting out at the Marriott Resort garden and waterfall, then enjoying mass at the Alto Vista Church followed by a walk through the Labyrinth

behind the church, then to the California Lighthouse to Arashi Beach where they enjoyed the sunset. The experience ended with a trash-the-dress session in the pool to cool off after a fun afternoon on One Happy Island Aruba.

Not only did Jessica & Eli Daige take home a photo disk of their wonderful honeymoon, they even bought a timeshare so they will be coming back for more. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro

Tony Roma's is the island's headquarters for ribs!

DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS starting at \$9

Many restaurants claim to have the best ribs in the land, but only Tony Roma's world famous ribs continue to rack up taste awards from a variety of cities, regions, and countries across the globe. Tony Roma's Palm Beach brings this classic to Aruba.

Great ribs put Tony Roma's on the map, but the menu also features an array of flame-grilled favorites including steaks, seafood and chicken. The menu also serves up fresh salads, fantastic burgers and sandwiches, grilled fresh local fish, mouthwatering desserts and delicious appetizers - especially the popular, made-from-scratch Onion Loaf.

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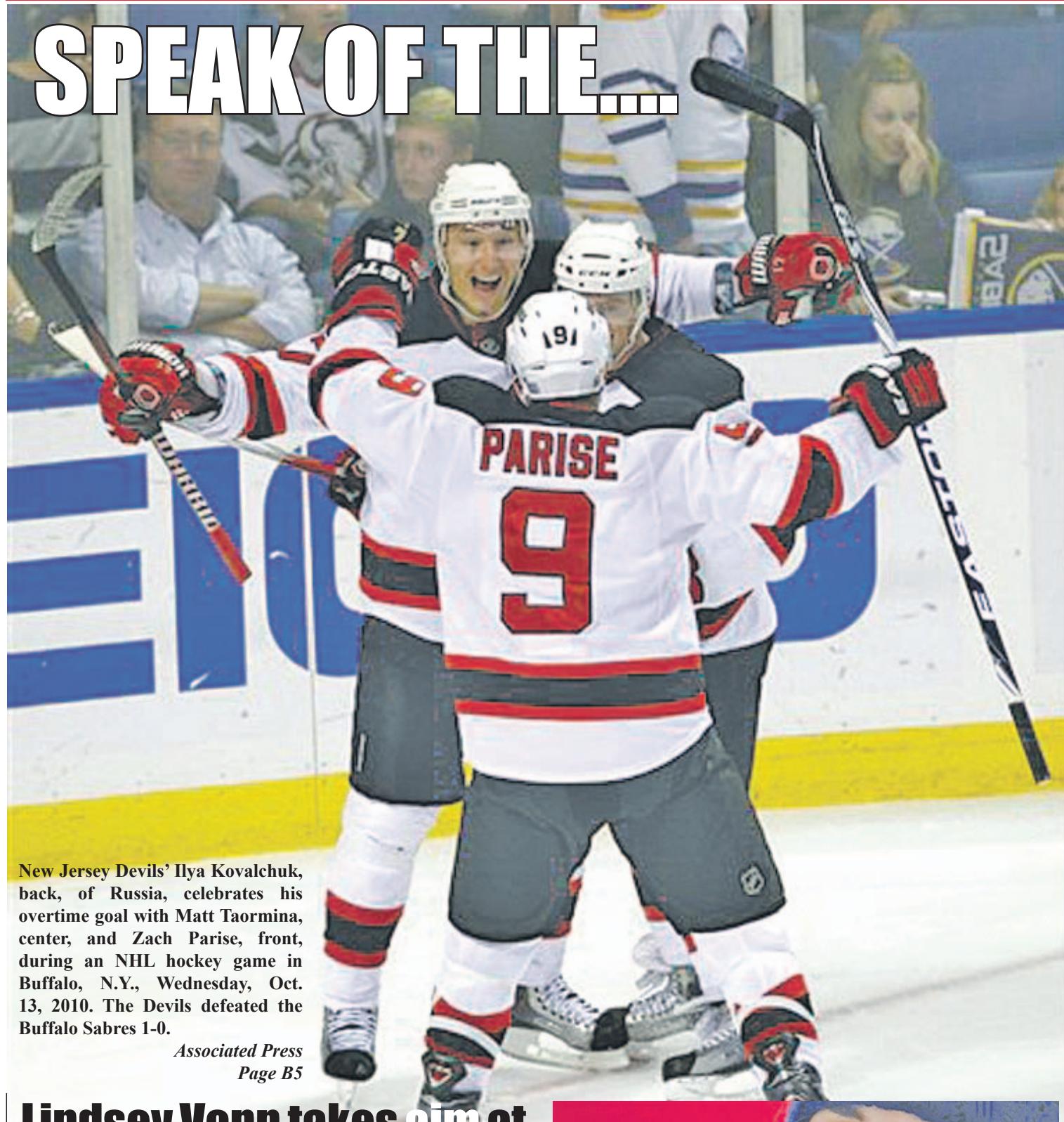
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On Top Of The News E-mail:news@arubatoday.com Website:www.arubatoday.com Tel:582-7800 Friday, October 15, 2010

SPEAK OF THE...



New Jersey Devils' Ilya Kovalchuk, back, of Russia, celebrates his overtime goal with Matt Taormina, center, and Zach Parise, front, during an NHL hockey game in Buffalo, N.Y., Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010. The Devils defeated the Buffalo Sabres 1-0.

Associated Press
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Lindsey Vonn takes aim at single-season win record

ANDREW DAMPF
AP Sports Writer

Lindsey Vonn's bruised shin is healed and the Olympic downhill champion has laid down quite a goal for the World Cup ski season starting next week.

Vonn says she wants to break her American single-season record of 11 wins set last year and take aim at the all-time record of 14 victories established by Swiss great Vreni Schneider in 1988-89.

"I try to improve every year. Two years ago I had nine wins, last year I had 11, so I want to improve," Vonn told The Associated Press in a phone interview on Thursday, already aboard her flight to Europe but a few moments before departing.

Continued on Page B8



United States holds the trophy of the alpine ski, Women's World Cup overall title, in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

Associated Press



This Sept. 26, 2010, file photo shows Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre being interviewed after an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions, in Minneapolis. With the NFL investigating whether he sent lewd photos of himself to a Jets game hostess while he played for New York in 2008, Favre said Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010, that his cherished, league-record streak of 289 straight starts could be in danger if the pain in his right elbow gets any worse.

Associated Press

Might allegations sack Favre's marketability?

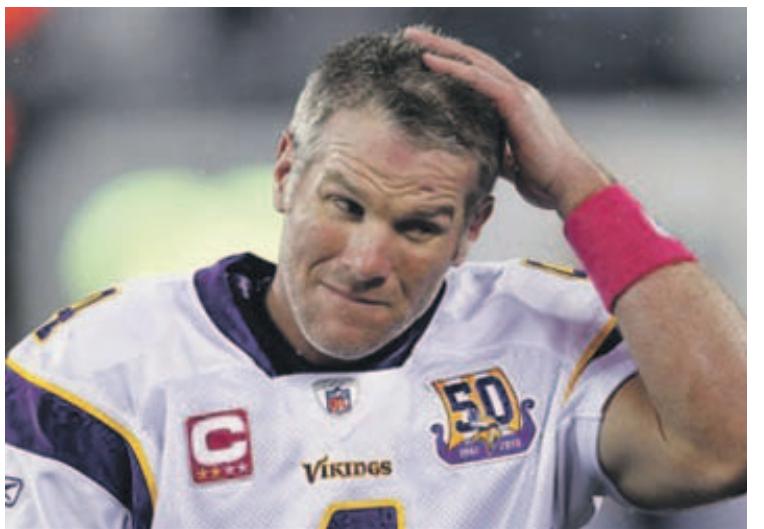
DAVE CAMPBELL
AP Sports Writer
EDEN PRAIRIE, Minnesota (AP) — Over 20 seasons as an NFL quarterback, Brett Favre has taken plenty of hits on the field.

Now his reputation is taking a hit, too.

The NFL is investigating the Deadspin website report that he allegedly sent below-the-waist naked photos of himself to a woman who worked for the New York Jets when he played for the team two years ago.

Favre has become one of America's most popular athletes by winning a Super Bowl, setting all kinds of passing and durability records and building an image as an everyday down-to-earth guy.

Continued on Next Page

**FAVRE****Continued from Page B1**

In his Wrangler jeans commercials, he plays a backyard game with a bunch of smiling and laughing guys while wearing a T-shirt, blue jeans and stubble.

Wrangler, arguably his highest-profile promotion, issued a statement on Thursday saying "we are following the story like everyone else."

"We are not making any major decisions on our marketing program until more information is available," Wrangler spokesman Rick French said.

Even if Favre ultimately

avoids punishment from the league, it's clear that this damage — fair or not — will be difficult to repair.

"It has certainly shifted to 'good family guy and one of us' to 'just like every other professional athlete' we can't trust," said sports marketing specialist Matt Delzell.

So will we still see Favre starring in television ads after he retires?

"I see it highly unlikely for the simple fact that the companies he endorses have hung their hat on his being a good-old-boy family guy in middle America," Delzell said in an interview from his Dallas-area

office, where he's a director for the entertainment marketing agency Davie Brown Talent. Favre has dodged all questions about the story, even when given opportunities to directly deny it's true. According to marketing and public relations analysts, the Minnesota Vikings quarterback has made the matter worse by not addressing it.

Asked after Minnesota's loss to the New York Jets on Monday if the allegation has been an embarrassment, Favre said, "I am embarrassed about this football game."

When Tiger Woods tumbled from grace following revelations of his infidelity, he took months to acknowledge his behavior and apologize for it. Michael Gordon, the chief executive officer of Group Gordon, a corporate and crisis public relations outfit in New York, compared Favre's evasiveness on this issue to what happened with Woods. "It looks like he's trying to dance around it, which is only creating more questions around him rather than fewer," said Gordon, whose firm

works with public figures, sports organizations and a variety of others. "If he were more forthcoming it would seem less ominous, but it looks like he's trying to hide something. The people who have handled these situations well are the ones who come out honestly with the facts and tell a complete story so there are no more questions down the road."

Favre doesn't have near the global stature that Woods does, and they also differ in their background.

Part of Favre's attraction to fans was the way he faced up to his past problems and overcame persistent personal tragedies to succeed on the field. His otherworldly performance the day after his dad died of a heart attack was one of the NFL's most memorable games of the past decade.

"Tiger had a very carefully crafted pristine image that at least to the outside made him look like perfect," Gordon said. "With Favre, people are fans of his play but he's never had a perfect reputation."

Favre spent the summer before the 1996 season in a rehab clinic to treat his painkiller addiction, and he has revealed his frequent drinking and carousing early in his career. Both he and his wife, Deanna, have published tell-all books about their ups and downs. They've been married for 14 years.

Favre has had his detractors, whether people fed up with his waffling about playing

and a perceived egotism behind it or simply Green Bay Packers backers angry about his signing-with-the-Vikings betrayal.

His popularity was widespread, however, transcending his days as a three-time NFL MVP in Green Bay. According to the league, his jersey was the third-best online seller on NFLShop.com over the period from April 1 through Sept. 30.

And according to the business analysts at Forbes.com, Favre made about \$7 million last year alone from endorsements. He's done all kinds of advertisements over his career, from credit cards to blue jeans. □

Union plans legal action over rise in technical fouls

By BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK — The NBA players association is planning legal action over the league's decision to issue more technical fouls for complaining.

Billy Hunter, the executive director of the union, said in a statement Thursday that the players weren't consulted about the rules changes, which he called "an unnecessary and unwarranted overreaction" by the league.

"We intend to file an appropriate legal

challenge," Hunter said.

The NBA has told players they will be whistled for technicals for overt gestures, even if they aren't directed at a referee, running up to an official to contest a call, or other actions that don't show proper respect for the game.

That figures to create a rise in technical fouls, which come with heavier fines this season. There were four called in a 16-second span of Boston's exhibition victory over New York on Wednesday, with Celtics All-Star Kevin Garnett

being ejected after picking up two of them for arguing. The league put the policy in place this season after saying its research showed fans felt that the players complained too much, which Hunter disputes.

"We have not seen any increase in the level of 'complaining' to the officials and we believe that players as a whole have demonstrated appropriate behavior toward the officials," Hunter said. "Worse yet, to the extent the harsher treatment from the referees leads to a stifling

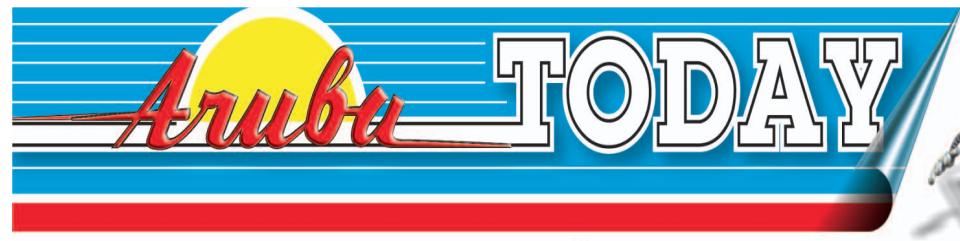
Dallas Mavericks head coach Rick Carlisle, center, and Cleveland Cavaliers head coach Byron Scott, right, listen to an explanation by official Tony Brown (6) following a technical foul against the Mavericks in the first half of a preseason NBA basketball game, Monday, Oct. 11, 2010, in Dallas.

Associated Press

of the players' passion and exuberance for their work, we fear these changes may actually harm our product." Besides warning of more techs, the NBA doubled the cost of them. Players and coaches are now docked \$2,000 for each of their first five, all the way up to \$5,000 starting at No. 16, along with a one-game suspension for every other

technical.

It's the second time the players have responded to the league's plans to call more techs by threatening legal action. They filed an unfair labor practice charge with the National Labor Relations Board early in the 2006-07 season, when the league's crackdown on griping was referred to as a "zero tolerance policy." □



KEEP ARUBA CLEAN...

Mediate leads Frys.com Open

SAN MARTIN, California (AP) — Rocco Mediate made a hole-in-one en route to a 7-under 64 that gave him the lead after Thursday's opening round of the Frys.com Open.

"It was fun playing with a lead," Mediate said. "You can wait your whole life for this feeling."

Paul Goydos, Bo Van Felt and Ryuji Imada opened with 65s, and John Mallinger, Michael Letzig, Shaun Micheel and Will MacKenzie had 66s. U.S. Ryder Cup player Rickie Fowler shot a 69.

The 46-year-old Mediate used a 6-iron on the 190-yard third hole for the hole-in-one, his second of the year. Mediate lost a 19-hole playoff to Tiger Woods at the 2008 U.S. Open Championship and has not finished higher than ninth in a major since.

"It's all about putting," Mediate said. "It has just been destroying me. I reach the fairway and hit the green but I three-putt three to five times a day and you're not going to beat anybody doing that."

He knew what he needed to do to correct the situation but it seemed to fail him until the past few weeks.

"No matter what I did, I

could not make any putts," Mediate said. "My attitude was horrible. I kept thinking I would hit the green but miss the putt. That's not the way to think."

He eventually got the feeling and still hopes to make the cut for next year's PGA Tour. He's currently 182nd on the money list and needs to finish among the top 125.

"If I don't have enough money to be in the top 125 than I don't belong there," Mediate said. "I'll go to Q-school if I have to. I know I can still compete. Imada is 110th on the money list, above the cutoff line to remain on the PGA Tour but tenuous nonetheless.

"I know the number will be larger than where I am now I am assuming," Imada said. "I hope to have a good week here and an enjoyable week in Las Vegas."

Imada did himself no favors by missing the cut in 10 of his past 14 tournaments.

He's also has fought a rib injury since early in the year and feels it every time he takes a swing.

"The only way to heal an injury like that is to take time off," he said. "I was told to take eight weeks off but I was only able to take four weeks off. It doesn't

hurt to practice but I know it's there and I have to be careful with it."

The 46-year-old Goydos, meanwhile, sits at 76th on the money list.

He bogeyed his first hole and went 1 under through the back nine. He made up for it on the front nine.

"I was like the weather," he said. "I started cold and heated up. I like the hot weather. It helps my old body get loose."

Goydos, who served as an assistant captain at the Ryder Cup, recently attended a friend's benefit event and did not touch his golf clubs for two weeks. "For me that's a long time," he said. "At 46, it seems like two months. I usually play three or four times a week. I don't take time off very often."

Participating in the Ryder Cup pumped new life into the veteran golfer who hasn't won an event since the Sony Open in Hawaii three years ago.

"It helps your mental attitude to playing the game," Goydos said. "You're with 24 of the best 36 players in the world. That's going to be good for your game."

Van Pelt, 20th on the money list, played the course



Rocco Mediate aims for a putt on the 18th hole during the first round of the Frys.com Open at the CordeValle Golf Club on October 14, 2010 in San Martin, California.

Getty Photo

consistently well after seeing it for the first time in Wednesday's Pro Am.

"Any time you go bogey free you're happy," Van Pelt said. "I wasn't going to play but decided to recommit. The one thing I haven't done is win this

year. I wanted to take one more shot at it before I shut down for the year."

The tournament, the third of five Fall Series events, is in its first year at CordeValle Golf Club after three seasons at Grawhawk in Scottsdale, Arizona. □

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Stewart within striking distance but needs help



Driver Tony Stewart sits in his car before practice for the NASCAR Sprint Cup series Bank of America 500 auto race at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C., Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010.

Associated Press

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

KANNAPOLIS, North Carolina (AP) — With his win at California last weekend, Tony Stewart is back in contention for a third NASCAR championship. He's sliced a decent chunk off his deficit over the last two races, and jumped five spots in the standings to fifth. Now a manageable 107 points behind leader Jimmie Johnson, Stewart believes he's got time to make a push with six races remaining in the Chase for the

championship.

But he also thinks he's going to need some help from Johnson and Denny Hamlin, the two most dominant drivers this season.

"When you look at the fact we've gained almost 60 points in the last two weeks, it shows that we're definitely not out of it," Stewart said. "Realistically, do I feel like we're in a comfortable spot? No. Jimmie and Denny are going to have to have a bad race for us to be in striking distance. But we've still got

time."

It makes Saturday's race at Charlotte Motor Speedway a critical halfway point of the Chase.

It's not Stewart's best track: In 23 career starts, he has one victory and 11 top-10s — and none since 2007. He won the non-points All-Star race at Charlotte last year, but has three finishes of 13th or lower in the races since and was 15th in May. "I think we've made up a lot of ground since we ran here in the spring. We'll be better, I just don't know how good we'll be," Stewart said.

He'll be racing the same Chevrolet he drove to victory at Atlanta in August, a car that gave him proof that the intermediate track program has picked up at Stewart-Haas Racing.

But Charlotte is Johnson's track, and everybody knows he's the master there.

A six-time Charlotte winner, Johnson completed the only perfect weekend of his career there last October. He won the pole, led every practice session and rolled to the victory.

Stewart was the last driver to win the Chase before Johnson began his four-year run in

2006, and it was the lessons Johnson learned from losing to Stewart the year before that Johnson has applied to this streak of domination. So consumed with what Stewart was doing, Johnson lost sight of his own program. Since then, he's practiced a singular focus and doesn't worry about trying to get into other drivers' heads. Stewart, in turn, won't waste time trying to play mind games with Johnson.

"You don't have to get in his head, we just have to go out and do our thing," he said.

"We're still in a situation where certain things have to happen on their own, but there are things out of our control still. By focusing on things we do have control over, we've got ourselves from 10th to fifth in points. And we've got ourselves somewhat back in striking distance."

He can concentrate on the only thing he currently deems important — winning — to do the rest. Stewart and crew chief Darian Grubb are adamant they don't regret the way the Chase opener at New Hampshire played out, when they gambled and raced for

the win only to run out of fuel while leading on the final lap. They estimate the swing cost them 97 points — ones they'd certainly like to have right now.

Now, they just hope Johnson and Hamlin have something not go their way over the next six weeks. Hamlin is likely on pins and needles after Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Kyle Busch lost his engine last week at California.

Johnson? Not so much. He doesn't often make mistakes, and Stewart knows that.

"I think they are good enough, when your car is good, you don't have to put yourself in so many compromising positions, and I really believe that's something Jimmie is really good at, especially in the Chase," Stewart said. "I think when he won that first championship, he realized what he had done and how he did it. When you are trying to dethrone somebody, you try harder in different ways ... and you force yourself into mistakes."

"Jimmie is really good at not putting himself in position to make that mistake." □

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Ivanovic wins in Linz despite toilet penalty

LINZ, Austria (AP) — Former No. 1 Ana Ivanovic was docked a game for taking too long in the toilet but still eased past Barbora Zahlavova Strycova of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-2 to reach the Generali Ladies quarterfinals on Thursday.

Second-seeded Daniela Hantuchova, who won the event in 2007 on her last appearance, also advanced after defeating Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain 6-4, 6-3. Hantuchova will face Swiss veteran Patty Schnyder, whom she beat in that 2007 final.

Ivanovic asked for a toilet break after winning the opening game of the match but the umpire gave her four penalty points — effectively a whole game — upon her return for taking too much time.

The chair umpire explained to the booring audience that she was docked one point for every 20 seconds she went over the time limit. Ivanovic blamed the incident on "a miscommunication" and said she thought she had been allowed to leave the court.

"I felt a bit sick so I had to go to the toilet," the seventh-ranked Ivanovic told Austrian broadcaster ORF. "I asked the referee and I thought he granted me permission to go so I was really surprised to be punished."

WTA rules state bathroom breaks should be

taken on a set break. However, if taken during a set, it must be taken before the player's own service game. If a player has been authorized to leave the court before her opponent's service game, then the player is leaving the court "on her own time" and will be penalized if not ready to play within the allowed time.

Ivanovic later revealed on her Facebook page she was getting sick after eating yoghurt just before the match.

"I wasn't expecting to go on court so early," she said. "I wasn't aware of the rules and anyway I simply had to go to leave the court because I knew I was going to be sick."

The Serb, who won the event in 2008, said the incident did not put her off.

"It did not disturb my concentration and it didn't really matter because I won the match," she said.

Ivanovic next meets Julia Goerges of Germany, who beat fifth-seeded Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-1 to reach her fifth quarterfinal of the season.

Goerges won her only WTA Tour title in nearby Bad Gastein in July.

Schnyder, twice a runner-up in Linz, lost her serve in the opening game against Klara Zakopalova before routing the eighth-seeded Czech 6-2, 6-0. □

NHL Roundup

Brodeur, Kovalchuk lift Devils to first victory

The Associated Press

BUFFALO, New York (AP)

— Martin Brodeur made 24 saves for his 111th NHL shutout, and Ilya Kovalchuk scored 53 seconds into overtime to lift the short-handed New Jersey Devils to their first win of the season, 1-0 over the Buffalo Sabres on Wednesday.

Brodeur, who came in with just an .859 save percentage, extended his NHL record for shutouts with his third career blanking of the Sabres.

After losing three games to open the year, the Devils (1-2-1) used stingy defense in the first and third periods to secure the victory.

At Washington, Nicklas Backstrom deflected in Alex Ovechkin's drive from the point on a power play with 3:39 left to lift Washington over the New York Islanders. With New York's Blake Comeau off for roughing, Ovechkin whistled a shot from long range that Backstrom tipped past goalie Dwayne Roloson for his first goal of the season and Washington's third straight victory.

Ovechkin also scored for Washington. It was his third straight game with a goal.

Rookie forward Nino Niederreiter scored his first NHL goal for the Islanders (1-1-1).

Maple Leafs 4, Penguins 3

At Pittsburgh, Clarke MacArthur scored twice as Toronto withstood Sidney Crosby's first goal of the season to keep Pittsburgh winless in their new arena.

Francois Beauchemin and Colton Orr also had goals for the Maple Leafs, who scored on four of their 14 shots to improve to 3-0 for the first time since the 1999-2000 season, the last time they won their division. They held on despite being outshot 9-2 in the third period, when Crosby, Evgeni Malkin and Mark Letestu all failed

to convert good scoring chances.

Pittsburgh is 1-3 overall and 0-3 in the Consol Energy Center, which opened last week as the replacement for the 49-year-old Civic Arena.

Lightning 4, Canadiens 3, OT

At Montreal, Ryan Malone scored 4:09 into overtime to give Tampa Bay a win over Montreal.

Malone flipped a loose puck past Carey Price for the Lightning, who came back twice for the victory.

Lightning forward Steven Stamkos scored his third goal in two games on a power play late in the third period to force overtime. Brett Clark and Martin St. Louis also scored for the Lightning, who have won their first two games of the season. Mike Smith made 24 saves.

Tomas Plekanec had a goal and an assist for the Canadiens, who blew leads of 2-0 and 3-2. Maxim Lapierre and Andrei Kostitsyn also scored.

Predators 3, Blackhawks 2

At Chicago, Joel Ward's power-play goal with 26.7 seconds remaining in the third period snapped a tie and lifted Nashville over Chicago.

With Nick Boynton serving



New Jersey Devils goalie Martin Brodeur makes a save during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Buffalo Sabres in Buffalo, N.Y., Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010. The Devils won 1-0 in overtime.

Associated Press

a delay-of-game penalty, Ward took a perfect goal mouth cross-ice feed from J.P. Dumont and ripped a shot past rookie goalie Corey Crawford from the left side of the net.

Steve Sullivan and Colin Wilson also scored for the Predators, (2-0).

Wilson's goal early in the third tied it at 2-2.

Chicago captain Jonathan Toews scored a goal and assisted on Patrick Kane's power-play tally.

At Anaheim, California, Ryan Getzlaf set up Corey

Perry's tying goal and Bobby Ryan's go-ahead score in the third period and the Anaheim Ducks finally earned their first victory of the season with a 4-3 win over the Vancouver Canucks.

Getzlaf had a goal and three assists in his first home opener as Anaheim's captain, and Jonas Hiller made 36 saves while keeping the Ducks close before an impressive third period by their talented top line.

Christian Ehrhoff scored a tiebreaking power-play

goal for Vancouver early in the third period. After Perry tied it by scoring on an open net, Ryan converted a 3-on-1 break against Roberto Luongo, who stopped 28 shots.

Daniel Sedin had a goal and an assist for the Canucks.

In other NHL games it was New Jersey 1, Buffalo 0, OT; Washington 2, N.Y. Islanders 1; Tampa Bay 4, Montreal 3, OT; Toronto 4, Pittsburgh 3; Nashville 3, Chicago 2; and Anaheim 4, Vancouver 3. □

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Alberto Contador to skip Tour presentation

PARIS (AP) — Three-time Tour de France winner Alberto Contador will not attend the 2011 race's presentation next week after being provisionally suspended by the UCI for a positive doping test.

Contador's spokesman Jacinto Vidarte told Thursday's edition of L'Equipe newspaper that the Spanish rider won't be in Paris because of an ongoing doping investigation.

"We are still waiting for the UCI's verdict," said Vidarte.

"We always hoped that the decision would be made before the Tour presentation. Alberto wants his innocence to be proved by the UCI. If they don't make a decision by Tuesday, I can't imagine Alberto going to Paris."

Contador has been provisionally suspended after a small amount of the banned drug clenbuterol was discovered in one of his samples from this year's Tour by a laboratory in Cologne, Germany.

Contador claimed that the positive test was caused by "food contamination" and denied speculation that he also engaged in blood transfusions during the race.

Olivier Rabin, the lead scientist at the World

Anti-Doping Agency, said Wednesday that results from tests that showed abnormally high levels of plastic residues in Contador's urine could also be used as part of the doping case against the Spaniard and the investigation is expected to take a long time.

Scientists say high amounts of plastic residue in the urine can be a sign that a person received a blood transfusion, which is banned under WADA rules.

"The Tour presentation is not his priority today," Vidarte said. "He prefers to miss out on the official presentation and be at the start of the 2011 Tour next July."

Vidarte added that Contador's presence in Paris would "focus the attention of the media and this may even harm the Tour presentation itself."

Contador will lose his Tour de France title if he is convicted of doping. He also risks a two-year suspension.

A total of 28 teams will be represented by some 40 riders, including Tour runner up Andy Schleck, Giro winner Ivan Basso and star sprinter Mark Cavendish, at the race presentation in Paris. □



Cyclist Alberto Contador of Spain looks back after an interview with the Associated Press in Pinto on the outskirts of Madrid, Saturday Oct. 2, 2010. Three-time Tour de France champion Alberto Contador tested positive for a banned drug while winning this year's race and has been suspended by cycling's governing body.

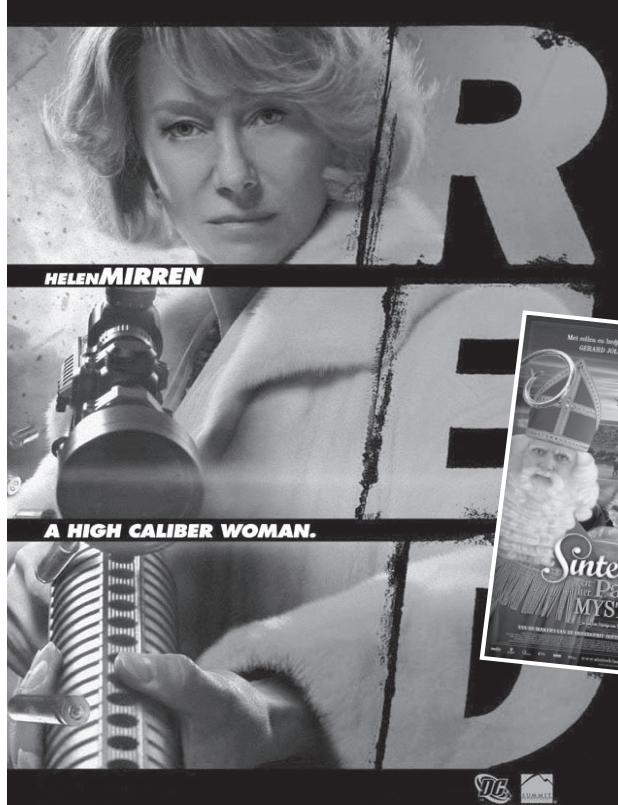
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NEW

matinee: 11.30

PG-13

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daily: 5.00

NEW

matinee: 12.30 - 2.45

PG

late show: 11.30

LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS

daily: 4.45

PG

matinee: 12.15 - 2.30

late show: 11.30

RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE 3D

daily: 7.00 - 9.15

PG

matinee: 11.45

R

EASY A

daily: 4.15 - 6.30 - 8.45

PG-13

matinee: 12.00 - 2.15

late show: 11.00

THE TOWN

daily: 6.00 - 8.45

PG-13

matinee: 12.15 - 3.15

late show: 11.30

DEVIL

daily: 7.15 - 9.15

R

matinee: 11.15

late show: 11.15

CATS & DOGS KITTY GALORE 3D

daily: 4.00

PG

matinee: 12.00 - 2.00

late show: 11.00

THE NEW DAUGHTER

daily: 6.00 - 8.30

PG-13

matinee: 12.45 - 3.15

late show: 11.00

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matinee: 12.15 - 2.15

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PG-13

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AQUARIUS

Yankees open ALCS against Wilson, who studies Lee

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas — The New York Yankees avoid Cliff Lee until Game 3 of the AL championship series. In the opener, they instead face another Texas Rangers left-hander who has been greatly influenced by the postseason ace in their short time together.

"Before he was here, I was actually a right-handed second baseman," C.J. Wilson joked Thursday.

Because Lee had to pitch a deciding Game 5 in the division series against Tampa Bay, Wilson starts Game 1 against New York and lefty CC Sabathia on Friday night at Rangers Ballpark.

Wilson already was making an impressive transition from reliever in his long-desired chance to be a Rangers starter again before Texas acquired Lee on July 9. But Wilson immediately began watching his new teammate and asking questions.

"The thing with Cliff is that he keeps his process the same no matter what is going on around him," Wilson said. "As I've gotten more comfortable in my role as a starting pitcher, I've had to thicken those walls in my bubble to keep everything else out and stay in my little zone and stay with what is making me successful, and that's the thing he and I talk about all the time."

Wilson won 15 games in the regular season, then followed Lee's spectacular Game 1 start in the first round with a gem of his own, allowing two hits in 6 1-3 scoreless innings. But after winning those games at Tampa Bay, the Rangers lost both at home and had to go back to Florida for the deciding game with Lee back on the mound Tuesday night.

Now that the Rangers have finally won a postseason series for the first time, they get to play New York, which has won 27 World Series titles and 40 pennants.

The Yankees, who haven't played since wrapping up a three-game sweep over Minnesota on Saturday night, have a nine-game postseason winning streak against Texas. New York knocked the Rangers out of the playoffs in their only three previous appearances between 1996 and '99.

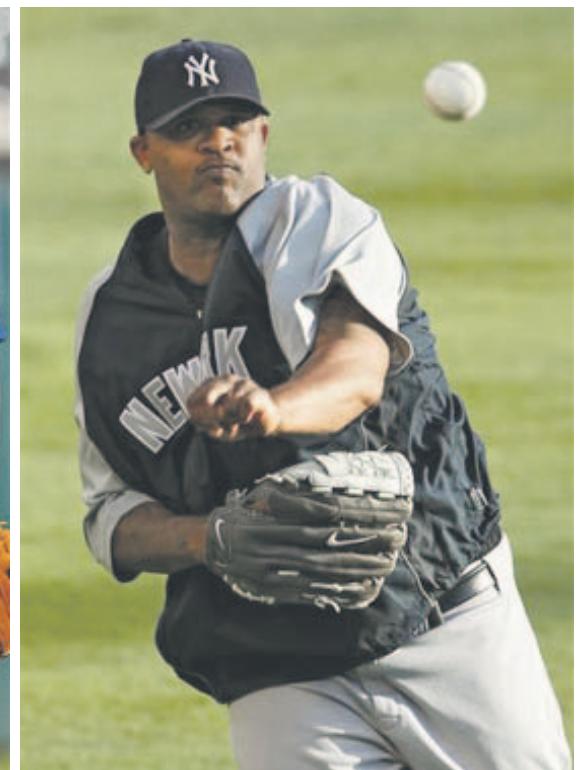
"You do worry about not playing for six days," said Yankees manager Joe Girardi, who celebrated his 46th birthday Thursday. "Hopefully, they won't be rusty and they will come out and the rest actually did them good."

This is the first time the Rangers open a postseason series at home. They still have never won a playoff game at Rangers Ballpark, going 0-6 including the two losses last weekend to the Rays.

Lee won both of his World Series starts for Philadelphia last year, including a six-hitter at Yankee Stadium when he struck out 10 and gave up only an unearned run. New York won the other four games.

The Yankees avoid facing Lee twice only if this series ends in fewer than seven games. Lee is 6-1 in his last eight starts against them, postseason included, going 4-0 with a 1.16 ERA and two complete games in his past four starts in New York.

For Game 1 of this series, Lee's biggest impact will be his influence on Wilson. "I'm not a guy that pushes a bunch of information on anybody, but he's definitely a guy that knows how to pitch," Lee said. "We've shared information, ideas on how to pitch guys, what to do with certain things.



New York Yankees starting pitcher CC Sabathia warms up during practice for baseball's American League Championship Series, Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010, in Arlington, Texas. The Yankees are to play the Texas Rangers in Game 1 on Friday night; and Texas Rangers starting pitcher C.J. Wilson jokes with Colby Lewis during practice for baseball's AL championship series Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010, in Arlington, Texas. Wilson is scheduled to start Game 1 against the New York Yankees on Friday night.

Associated Press

Definitely, it's not very often you see a guy go from the bullpen to the starting rotation and do the things he has. A lot of credit goes to his talents and just his stuff. He knows how to pitch."

Wilson was primarily a starter in the minor leagues and missed all of 2004 recovering from ligament transplant surgery.

After being called up by the Rangers for the first time in 2005, he was 0-5 with a 12.05 ERA in six starts. But in 18 appearances out of the bullpen his rookie season, he had a 2.73 ERA and Texas continued to utilize him as a reliever, even opening the 2008 season with him as the closer.

Nick Swisher saw Wilson as a reliever plenty when he was in the AL West with Oakland. Swisher said the big difference now is the left-hander is "more of a pitcher instead of a thrower" and is using his off-speed pitches.

"The ball's moving a lot more. He's throwing the cutter, the two-seamer,"

Swisher said. "Before it was just grip it and rip it. ... He's really, really learned a lot through the maturation process."

Wilson always wanted to be a starter again, and the Rangers gave the crafty and insightful lefty that chance during spring training this season.

"What he's done this year is really impressive," teammate Michael Young said.

Wilson pitched 204 innings and his 15 wins were the most on the staff. He held left-handed batters to a major league-low .176 slugging percentage.

"He's always had great stuff," Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter said. "The difference now is his confidence."

While Wilson's record and ERA were virtually identically in 17 starts before and 16 after Lee arrived, his strikeouts increased, his walks decreased and, more importantly, the former reliever didn't fade down the stretch as the innings piled up. He hadn't thrown

more than 73 2-3 innings in a season since 2002 in the minors when he was a starter.

"What Cliff has done for C.J. is make him understand if you have good stuff, throw it in the strike zone and good things will happen more often than not," Texas manager Ron Washington said.

"Recently, he's starting to throw more pitches over the plate, he's starting to trust himself more and he's starting to get quicker outs than he has in the past."

Wilson was 0-1 with a 5.65 ERA in three starts against the Yankees this season, including a rain-shortened, six-inning, complete-game loss in New York in his second start back in April. He threw 96 pitches in 5 1-3 innings in August against them, and 75 pitches in three innings in September. Texas won both those games in extra innings.

While he knows what has to change, Wilson isn't getting too specific about what he needs to do Friday night. □

Nadal beaten by Melzer in Shanghai

SHANGHAI (AP) — Rafael Nadal failed to reach a quarterfinal for the first time this year after a shock defeat by Jurgen Melzer in the third round of the Shanghai Masters on Thursday.

The No. 1-ranked Nadal had never dropped a set to the Austrian in three previous meetings but went down 6-1, 3-6, 6-3. The Spaniard had most recently beaten Melzer in the semifinals of the French Open this year on his way to the title. Nadal won the U.S. Open in September to become the seventh man in history to win all four Grand Slam tournaments and was bidding for his eighth title of the season in Shanghai. Melzer played aggressively from the start, hitting booming forehand winners and attacking Nadal's second serve to break the Spaniard twice and capture the opening set in 40 minutes. Nadal stormed back in the second set, getting his first — and only — break of the

match with a running backhand down the line that the Austrian dumped into the net.

The two players held serve in the deciding set until the fifth game when Nadal badly shanked a forehand long and hit another one wide to give Melzer his third break of the match. The Spaniard saved three match points on his serve, but Melzer easily put the match away on his next serve.

Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray both had easier times on Thursday.

Djokovic, aiming to win back-to-back titles after capturing the China Open in Beijing last week, defeated Frenchman Richard Gasquet 6-1, 6-1.

Gasquet looked drained after winning two matches due to the rain-delayed schedule earlier in the week. He dropped serve five times and had only six winners, compared to 25 for the second-ranked Serb.

"I don't know how (Gasquet) felt and I didn't care," Djokovic



Rafael Nadal of Spain acknowledges the crowd as he leaves the court after losing to Jurgen Melzer of Austria in their third round match of the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010. Melzer won 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.

Associated Press

said. "I did really well from the start. I put pressure on him and I was aggressive. I didn't give him a chance to come back into the match."

Djokovic next faces Spain's Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, who upset Wimbledon finalist and seventh-seeded Czech Tomas Berdych 7-6 (4), 6-3. Garcia-Lopez advanced Wednesday when Andy Roddick retired with a groin injury while leading 6-3, 2-3.

Murray beat qualifier Jeremy

Chardy of France 6-3, 6-4 to reach his ninth quarterfinal this year. Murray started off slowly against the 59th-ranked Chardy, facing three break points in his opening service game. But he served two aces and flicked a volley past Chardy at the net to hold and then immediately broke his opponent at love in the next game.

"I served well under pressure," Murray said. "That was really, really important to get a good start in the match because he's

very, very streaky. He can play some great tennis, so I needed to try to get ahead early and I managed to do that."

The Scot has benefited from a relatively easy draw, receiving a first-round bye and beating a 465th-ranked Chinese wild card in the second round. He'll face his first real test in the quarterfinals when he faces 12th-seeded Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who defeated Germany's Florian Mayer 7-5, 6-3. □



In this file photo taken March 12, 2010, Lindsey Vonn of the United States speeds down the course on her way to win an alpine ski, Women's World Cup super-G in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

Associated Press

LINDSEY VONN

Continued from Page B1

"Vreni won 14, so it's definitely possible. I'm just going to go out there and try to win as many races as I can and try to ski my best."

Two other women — Annemarie Moser-Proell of Austria and Anja Paerson of

Vonn will also be aiming for her fourth consecutive overall World Cup title when the 37-race season kicks off with a giant slalom on the Rettenbach glacier in Soelden, Austria, on Oct. 23.

Vonn arrived at the Olympics in Vancouver in February having bruised her right shin in training. The pain was so severe that she struggled to put on a ski boot and worried at one point if she would be able to compete.

Resorting to all sorts of therapy, including one that entailed wrapping her leg in topfen — an Austrian curd cheese said to reduce swelling — Vonn still managed to win the downhill and get bronze in the super-G.

"It's doing pretty good now. It didn't give me too many problems in Chile and New Zealand (where the U.S. Ski Team holds preseason training), so I'm confident that

it should be good this season," Vonn said.

Actually, Vonn had a series of injuries last season, including a bruised right knee and a broken right pinkie, but she didn't require any surgery in the offseason and is ready to race again.

"A skier's life is always filled with injuries, so you just got to do the best you can," she said.

In all, she took two months off after last season — more than she's ever taken off before. Still, in June she traveled to Austria for three weeks of intensive training.

"There's no short cuts when you got to get ready for a new season, but I wanted to come into the summer fresh and take that time off and I think it really helped," she said. "It let my body heal."

Vonn could face her steepest challenge yet for the overall

title, with a host of prominent skiers returning from injury. Swiss teenager Lara Gut, one of the few racers to challenge Vonn at the world championships in Val d'Isere two seasons ago, is back from a dislocated hip. Nicole Hosp of Austria, the last woman to win the overall title before Vonn, has recovered from a badly damaged right knee, and Vonn's teammate Julia Mancuso took two silver medals in Vancouver to show she can be a threat again, too. Vonn's best friend Maria Riesch of Germany should be her top rival again.

"There's more competitors each year and every year everyone gets more motivated and keeps working harder," Vonn said. "It's going to be a very tough winter but I'm looking forward to it. I look forward to bigger challenges and hopefully I can still defend my titles." □

HEALTH

Aruba TODAY



Protein urine test may signal prostate cancer

By Kate Kelland

LONDON — A protein in urine could be a strong indicator of prostate cancer risk, according to British scientists who say their findings could one day be developed into a quick and simple test for the disease.

Scientists from the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Research Institute and the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) said the protein, called microseminoprotein-beta or MSMB, is found at reduced levels in men diagnosed with the disease and are also lower in men with more aggressive forms of the cancer.

"The protein is easy to detect because it is found in urine and would potentially be a very simple test to carry out on men to identify those most at risk of developing the disease," said Hayley Whitaker of the Cambridge institute, who led the study.

Whitaker said that while it

could be around five years before the results of this study are translated into a test for doctors to use in clinics, she hoped it would then also help them to determine which patients have aggressive tumors.

Prostate cancer killed an estimated 258,000 men around the world in 2008 and is the second most common cause of cancer death in men in the United States. In Britain, around 35,000 men are diagnosed with it and some 10,000 die from the disease. The most effective screening tests currently available are based on a single biomarker called prostate specific antigen (PSA). But PSA testing is problematic because it has low specificity, which generates high false positive rates and leads to unnecessary surgical and radiotherapy treatment.

A U.S. study published last year found that routine

PSA prostate screening has resulted in more than one million American men being diagnosed with tumors who might otherwise have suffered no ill effects from them.

"At the moment, PSA testing is the best method we have to detect prostate cancer but it has significant limitations, so there is an urgent need to find new biomarkers such as MSMB that could be used in screening and diagnosis," said Rosalind Eeles of the ICR and The Royal Marsden Hospital, who also worked on the study. The protein -- which regulates prostate cell death -- is produced by normal prostate cells.

The scientists took tissue and urine samples from around 350 men both with and without prostate cancer to test MSMB levels.

The results, published in the Public Library of Science (PLoS) ONE journal, showed



Medical equipment sits in labelled bins inside of a doctor's office in New York in this March 17, 2010 file photo.

that MSMB is found at significantly lower levels in the urine of men diagnosed with prostate cancer than those without the disease. They also showed men with aggressive tumors were also likely to have lower levels of the protein in their urine.

Commenting on the study, Kate Holmes of the UK's Prostate Cancer Charity, said they could prove very valuable

in future.

"Given the known limitations of the PSA blood test, finding a technique to accurately diagnose prostate cancer is the Holy Grail of research into the disease," she said in a statement.

"An accurate, reliable urine test for prostate cancer would be an invaluable tool if it is proven to be successful on a large scale." □

FDA warns makers of chelation treatments

By Julie Steenhuysen

CHICAGO — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is cracking down on the over-the-counter sale of so-called chelation products that claim to treat conditions such as autism, heart disease and Alzheimer's by removing heavy metals from the body.

The FDA said on Thursday it sent warning letters to eight companies telling them their products were unapproved drugs and devices, and any claims about treating medical conditions with these products violated federal law.

"These products are dangerously misleading because they are targeted to patients with serious conditions and limited treatment options," Deborah Autor, director of the Office of Compliance in the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, said in a statement.

"The FDA must take a firm stand against companies who prey on the vulnerability of patients seeking hope and relief," Autor said.

Although there are FDA-approved chelation drugs that are used in cases of heavy metal poisoning with a prescription, no chelation therapy products are approved for sale over the counter or on the Internet, the FDA said.

"What we're telling consumers today is that any

chelation therapy marketed over the counter is suspect," Michael Levy, director of the FDA's Division of New Drugs and Labeling Compliance, told a telephone briefing.

Serious safety issues have been linked with chelation products, which can alter the levels of certain substances in the blood. Even when used under medical supervision, these products can cause serious harm, including dehydration, kidney failure and death.

One child died while being treated for autism with an intravenous chelation product, FDA officials told the briefing. And they said there are likely many cases of serious side effects because companies are not compelled to report adverse events to the agency.

Companies that got the warning letters claim that their products treat a range of diseases by removing toxic metals from the body, the agency said.

Some also claim to treat autism spectrum disorder, cardiovascular diseases, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, macular degeneration -- a major cause of blindness -- and other serious conditions, the FDA said.

And some companies that got warning letters also make test kits and claim their products can detect heavy metals, thereby justifying the need for

chelation therapy.

The FDA issued the warning because agency officials said there has been an increase in claims for and the availability of these products sold directly to consumers.

The FDA said companies need to act quickly to correct violations listed in the warning letters or face possible legal action, including seizure of their products.

The letters were issued to the following companies: World Health Products LLC; Hormonal Health LLC; Evenbetternow LLC; Maxam Nutraceuticals/Maxam Laboratories; Cardio Renew Inc; Artery Health Institute LLC; Longevity Plus, and Dr. Rhonda Henry, a nutritionist. □





FILE - In this Sept. 7, 2010 file photo released by ABC, co-hosts Whoopi Goldberg, left, and Joy Behar pose on the set of their daytime talk show, 'The View,' in New York.

(AP Photo/ABC, Heidi Gutman, file)

Box Office Preview: 'Jackass 3D' to be 3-peat hit

By PAUL DERGARABEDIAN,
For The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Johnny Knoxville and company are set to make a complete jackass out of the box office this weekend as Paramount's "Jackass 3D" looks to add another No. 1 debut to the franchise's perfect track record.

Derived from the outrageous MTV show, the first film was a surprise hit in 2002 when it opened on top in late October with \$22.8 million. The second movie was an even bigger hit when it debuted in late September of 2006 with a winning \$29 million.

Now, it looks like these jackasses will again have the last laugh all the way to the bank, but this time they're boosted by the novelty of 3-D, which is likely to provide an opening take of between \$30 million to \$35 million.

Summit Entertainment's "Red" takes a page out of "The Expendables" playbook with an all-star ensemble cast, action galore and enough



In this film publicity image released by Paramount Pictures, Johnny Knoxville is shown in a scene from 'Jackass 3D.'

(AP Photo/Paramount Pictures)

comedic elements to give the film broad-based appeal.

Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman, John Malkovich, Mary-Louise Parker, Helen Mirren and Richard Dreyfus round out a very diverse, though somewhat unconventional cast for this type of action film. A gross of around \$20 million should land the film in second place for the weekend.

Sony's "The Social Network" continues its terrific run, hitting the \$50 million mark on Wednesday after just 13 days of release as it continues

NY mosque argument on 'The View' leads to walk-off

By DAVID BAUDER,
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK — Joy Behar and Whoopi Goldberg walked off the stage of "The View" Thursday during an argument with Bill O'Reilly over the proposed Islamic center near the site of the Sept. 11 attacks.

The women objected to the Fox News Channel host saying that "Muslims killed us on 9/11." They returned after an O'Reilly apology. The fireworks came amid a heated argument on the issue.

"Listen to me," O'Reilly said, "because you'll learn something."

"Pinhead!" retorted Behar, who also hosts a prime-time show on HLN.

O'Reilly, who was on the popular daytime talk show to promote his book "Pinheads and Patriots: Where You Stand in the Age of Obama," said locating the Islamic Center near ground zero is inappropriate "because Muslims killed us on 9/11."

Goldberg responded with an expletive and Behar rose from her seat.

"I don't want to sit here," Behar said. "I don't. I'm outraged by that statement."

She walked off the set, followed by Goldberg. The show's creator, Barbara Walters, immediately said her colleagues were wrong to walk off.

"We should be able to have discussions without washing our hands and screaming and walking offstage," she said. But she also scolded O'Reilly, saying that it was extremists who committed the terrorist act. "You cannot take a whole religion and demean them," she said. "I'm not demeaning anybody," O'Reilly said.

"Yes," Walters replied. "You are."

After some more back-and-forth, O'Reilly said that "if anybody felt that I was demeaning all Muslims, I apologize."

Behar and Goldberg returned, with Behar saying, "We're back now because you apologized."

The 16-story Islamic center and mosque is planned for lower Manhattan, two blocks north of where the World Trade Center once stood. Critics say the location denigrates the memory of those who died on Sept. 11, 2001. Proponents say planners have a constitutional right to build and see the project as a reflection of religious freedom and diversity. □

Cristina criticizes Univision's cancellation

By GISELA SALOMON,
Associated Press Writer

MIAMI — Cristina Saralegui is often considered the Oprah Winfrey of Spanish media. But her 20-year-old TV talk show is coming to an end with much less fanfare than "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

Saralegui is upset that Univision canceled "El Show de Cristina" last August, announcing the final episode would air on Nov. 1.

"It was something totally unexpected and not only for me but for my husband and manager, Marcos (Avila)," the Cuban-American winner of 12 Emmy Awards said Thursday.

"I felt used and discarded," she added.

Saralegui said the news took her "completely by surprise" because the ratings of her show "are very good." She also said she was planning to retire at 65, not at 62, her current age.



FILE - In this Oct. 24, 2005 file photo, TV personality Cristina Saralegui gives a thumbs-up before she was inducted into the Broadcasting & Cable Hall of Fame in New York.

(AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams, File)

Earlier, Saralegui said in an interview with Spanish newspaper El Nuevo Herald that she thought the decision to cancel the show had to do with her age.

Calls to Univision were not immediately returned on Thursday. □

BUSINESS**Aruba TODAY**

Stocks dip; Likely Fed move keeps losses in check

By STEPHEN BERNARD,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK – Stocks dipped Thursday after another disappointing jobs report and growing concern over how potentially damaging foreclosure documents will weigh on the health of major banks. But losses mitigated by expectations that the Federal Reserve will have to act soon to strengthen the economy. Bank and other financial stocks were pummeled as more companies suspend foreclosures on homes due to lingering about how mortgage defaults were handled.

Shares of Bank of America Corp., Wells Fargo & Co., Citigroup Inc. and JPMorgan Chase & Co. fell between 4 percent and 6 percent. By comparison, the broad Standard & Poor's 500 index was declining less than 1 percent.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell nearly 60 points in afternoon trading. In recent months, any indication that the job market is growing worse had led to large selloffs on Wall Street. However, those same reports have led to a strong consensus that the Fed will step in to prevent further economic decay.

Initial claims for unemployment aid rose by 13,000 to a seasonally adjusted 462,000, the Labor Department said Thursday. It was only the second rise in two months.

"Good news is good news and bad news is good news," said Sarah Hunt, a research analyst at Alpine Mutual Funds. The Fed's next meeting ends Nov. 3 and it is widely expected an announcement on actions to stimulate the economy will be announced then.

That also helped push the

dollar lower and gold higher.

The Fed is expected to buy government bonds, which would drive interest rates down from already low levels. That would make gold and other currencies, where interest rates are higher, more attractive than the dollar.

Gold hit another record high, while the dollar fell to a 15-year low against the yen and touched its lowest level against the euro since January. "People are pretty focused on what the Fed is going to do," said Russell Croft, portfolio manager of the Croft Value Fund. Fed chairman Ben Bernanke is scheduled to give a speech Friday that could provide more details about how much money the central bank might pump into the economy.

The Dow fell 55.66, or 0.5 percent, to 11,040.42 in late afternoon trading.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 9.63, or 0.82 percent, to 1,168.47, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 15.44, or 0.63 percent, to

2,425.79.

Deflation remains a concern at the Fed. At its meeting last month, the Fed hinted that future bond purchases would help get inflation back to more historically normal levels. The lower interest rates are also aimed at sparking new borrowing and spending by companies and consumers. More spending would drive prices for goods higher.

The core Producer Price Index, which is a measure of the cost of goods before they reach consumers excluding volatile energy and food costs, rose inline with analysts' expectations last month.

Bond prices were mixed Thursday. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 2.46 percent from 2.42 percent late Wednesday. It has been falling regularly in recent weeks because the Fed will likely ramp up its purchase of the bonds to help the economy. Gold touched a record of \$1,388.10 an ounce before



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

pulling back to \$1,373.25 an ounce.

Bank of America fell 80 cents, or 6 percent, to \$12.49, while JPMorgan Chase dropped

\$1.62, or 4 percent, to \$38.21. Citigroup Inc. fell 22 cents, or 5.3 percent, to \$4.03 and Wells Fargo & Co. dropped \$1.35, or 5.1 percent, to \$24.46. □

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WK 42	STD	\$4,000.	2ND FL / POOL
WK 42	1BDRM	\$7,000.	G/ FL
WK 44	STD	\$4,500	1ST FL GARDEN
WK 44	1BDRM	\$8,000.	1ST/FL /OCEAN
WK 45	1BDRM	\$6,000.	1ST FL/ G
WK 45	1BDRM	\$10,000.	3RD FL/POOL/O
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Google 3Q earns up 32 pct as online ads strong



In this photo taken Friday, Oct. 8, 2010, a sign at Google headquarters in Mountain View, Calif. is shown. Google Inc.'s third-quarter earnings climbed 32 percent to beat Wall Street's expectations as companies spent more to advertise to Web surfers.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

By JESSICA MINTZ,
AP Technology Writer

SEATTLE — Google Inc.'s third-quarter earnings climbed 32 percent to beat

Wall Street's expectations as companies spent more to advertise to Web surfers. The Web search leader clocked an impressive

performance despite adding 1,500 workers in the quarter, for a total of 3,500 new employees so far this year. Google also spent more than four times as much on data centers and other equipment than it did a year ago.

Investors sent shares of Google jumping more than 9 percent, to \$590.60, in extended trading after the release of results Thursday. For July through September, the Web search leader's net income rose to \$2.2 billion, or \$6.72 per share, from \$1.6 billion, or \$5.13 per share, a year earlier.

Excluding certain expenses, Google earned \$7.64, topping the \$6.69 analysts expected. Revenue rose 23 percent to \$7.3 billion from \$5.9 billion a year earlier. After subtracting commissions paid

to its ad partners, Google's revenue stood at \$5.5 billion, about \$200 million more than analysts predicted, according to a Thomson Reuters survey. Google said its average cost per click rose 3 percent from a year ago, meaning companies paid more to place ads. People clicked on ads 16 percent more than they did in the same period last year.

During a conference call with analysts, Google said sales of its display ads, which include those on YouTube, are on a pace that would translate to \$2.5 billion annually. Its mobile advertising businesses are on pace to bring in \$1 billion in revenue annually. The figures are the most specific Google has released about the two emerging businesses.

Google's capital expenditures

— what it pays for data centers, servers and networking equipment to keep its growing number of Web services online — increased to \$757 million from \$186 million a year earlier.

The company, which is based in Mountain View, Calif., indicated it would keep hiring and spending.

"Our core business grew very well, and our newer businesses — particularly display and mobile — continued to show significant momentum," said CEO Eric Schmidt in a statement. "Going forward, we remain committed to aggressive investment in both our people and our products as we pursue an innovation agenda."

Before the release of results, shares closed down \$2.37 at \$540.93. □

Texting tops with US teens



A girl uses a phone to send a text message. Market tracker Nielsen Co. on Thursday released a study confirming what many US parents already knew: teens love to use mobile phones to swap text messages.

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — Market tracker Nielsen Co. on Thursday released a study confirming what many US parents already knew: teens love to use mobile phones to swap text messages.

"If it seems like American teens are texting all the time, it's probably because on average they're sending

or receiving 3,339 texts a month," Nielsen said in a release accompanying a study based on monthly mobile phone bills.

"That's more than six per every hour they're awake." Nielsen analyzed data from more than 60,000 US mobile phone service subscribers in April, May, and June.

"No one texts more than teens," Nielsen said, pegging the top texting age bracket at 13 to 17 years old. "Especially teen females."

Girls sent or received an average of 4,050 text messages monthly, while boys averaged 2,539 texts, according to the study. Mobile phone users ages 18 to 24 years old were a distant second place, typically exchanging 1,630 text messages monthly or a "meager" three texts per hour, Nielsen said.

The ability to exchange text messages has replaced safety as the top reason teenagers get mobile phones, according to the study.

The amount of voice calling done by US teenagers dropped 14 percent as compared with the same three-month period a year earlier, Nielsen reported. □



The Skype Internet phone program is pictured. Skype and Facebook joined forces Thursday to let users of the popular Internet communications service chat with their friends on the booming social network.

Facebook joins forces with Skype

WASHINGTON — Skype and Facebook joined forces Thursday to let users of the popular Internet communications service chat with their friends on the booming social network. The new Skype version 5.0 for Windows includes a Facebook tab and integrates Facebook's news feed and phonebook into Skype, the Luxembourg-based Skype said in a statement. Skype users can call Facebook friends directly on mobile or landline phones, send SMS messages or make free Skype-to-Skype calls to Facebook friends who are also Skype users, it said. They can also post status updates to Facebook that can be synced with Skype "mood" messages and comment on Facebook friends' updates and wall posts. "We're working with companies such as Skype to make it easy to find your friends anytime you want to connect," said Ethan Beard, director of the Facebook Developer Network. Skype on Thursday also added a new group video-calling feature and "automatic call recovery," which helps reconnect calls interrupted due to Internet connection problems. Skype said video-calling accounted for approximately 40 percent of all Skype-to-Skype minutes in the first half of the year. Skype, which was founded in 2003, bypasses the standard telephone network by channelling voice, video and text conversations over the Internet. The company announced plans in August to raise up to 100 million dollars in shares by listing on the Nasdaq stock exchange. □



**"FAVI FUNDACION
CU VISION"**

Nepal teen stands tall as world's shortest man

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA,
Associated Press Writer

POKHARA, Nepal — A Nepalese fruit seller's son with the body of a toddler turned 18 on Thursday and was officially declared the world's shortest man by Guinness record officials.

Khagendra Thapa Magar measured in at 26.4 inches (67 centimeters), displacing the former record holder, Edward Nino Hernandez of Colombia, who measures 27 inches (70 centimeters). Cheers went up when Magar was handed a world record certificate by Guinness official Marco Frigatti. The ceremony was held in a hotel in Pokhara, Magar's hometown and a popular tourist destination west of Katmandu.

"I can confirm that as of today Khagendra Thapa Magar is officially the shortest man in the world," Frigatti announced as he handed over the certificate. Magar's family has campaigned for years to get him the crown, but earlier requests to Guinness were rejected because of the possibility he might grow. "We had to wait till he was 18 and became an adult," Frigatti said.

"We are very proud of our son," said his father, Rup Bahadur Thapa Magar. "We have been finally recognized and our dreams have finally come true." On Thursday, Magar and his family excitedly welcomed journalists to their home, where Magar jumped on the kitchen table and made tea for the visitors and family members. He also received presents for his 18th birthday and danced to the sound of a toy drum. Magar, who weighs 12 pounds, 5 ounces (6.5 kilograms), was tiny even at birth, weighing just 1.3 pounds (600 grams). His father says he has no explanation for why he never grew taller — his



A Nepalese doctor measures the height of Nepal's Khagendra Thapa Magar as a Guinness record official watches before declaring Magar the world's shortest man, at a local hospital in Pokhara, some 200 kilometers (124 miles) west of Katmandu, Nepal, Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010.

Magar, a Nepalese fruit seller's son with the body of a toddler turned 18 on Thursday and was officially declared the world's shortest man by Guinness record officials. Magar measured in at 26.4 inches (67 centimeters), displacing the former record holder, Edward Nino Hernandez of Colombia, who measures 27 inches (70 centimeters).

Younger brother is a normal height for a boy of 13. Local doctors are stumped, but lack facilities for detailed testing.

Magar's doctor for the past five years says he has the body of a 3-year-old. "His body structure is like that of a small child and he also thinks and behaves in that manner," Hum Prasad Newpane said.

Magar — who already

travels as part of a dancing troupe when he isn't helping his parents in their fruit shop — seems ready for the media spotlight that will accompany his new title.

Next year he is to serve as a government-appointed goodwill ambassador as his nation celebrates Visit Nepal Year.

"I am very happy and excited," he said. □



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New species of carnivorous mammal found in Madagascar



A Madagascan worker for the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust holds a new species of carnivorous mammal that was discovered in Madagascar in this September 2004 image. The cat size creature has been called Durrell's vontsira (*Salanoia durrelli*) in honour of conservationist Gerald Durrell. Scientists found the creature in the wetlands of Lake Alaotra, the largest lake in Madagascar.

A N T A N A N A R I V O (AFP) – A new species of carnivorous mammal, likely highly endangered, has been discovered in eastern Madagascar, conservationists told AFP Thursday.

The animal, brown and similar to a mongoose, was found in the wetlands of Lake Alaotra, the largest expanse of fresh water on the Indian Ocean

island.

It has been baptised Durrell's vontsira (*Salanoia durrelli*) after the late British naturalist Gerald Durrell, who led conservation projects in Madagascar.

The mammal belongs to the eupleridae family, which is endemic to Madagascar.

"We noticed the existence of this mammal several years

ago but we thought it was a species we already knew and that is found in the forest," said Robert Bourou, an assistant researcher with the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust who took part in the operation to capture a specimen of Durrell's vontsira in 2004. The specimen captured allowed scientists at the Natural History Museum in London to determine they

were looking at a species hitherto unknown.

Experts fear Durrell's vontsira is already highly endangered. "It is likely one of the species of carnivore that numbers the fewest individuals and that are the most endangered in the world," said Frank Hawkins of Conservation International. Bush fires and insufficient rain are contributing to the drying up of the Alaotra

wetlands and conservationists have been trying for the past several years to increase local awareness of the importance of protecting biodiversity.

"We hope this discovery will encourage local residents to protect their wetlands," Bourou said.

The last time a new carnivorous mammal was discovered in Madagascar was in 1986. □

Astronomer Stands By Discovery of Alien Planet Gliese 581g Amid Doubts

Mike Wall

Despite the doubts raised recently over the existence of the potentially habitable alien world Gliese 581g, the planet's co-discoverer is standing behind his find.

Steven Vogt, leader of the team that detected Gliese 581g, said he respects the work of the researchers who questioned the planet's existence yesterday (Oct. 12). He said he cannot comment on the scientists' results, since he hasn't seen their data.

But he has confidence in his own team's conclusions.

"I stand by our data and analysis," Vogt, an astronomer at the University of California, Santa Cruz, said in an e-mail interview with SPACE.com. "I feel confident that we have accurately and honestly reported our uncertainties and done a thorough and responsible job extracting what information

this data set has to offer. I feel confident that anyone independently analyzing this data set will come to the same conclusions."

Vogt added that he looks forward to reading the other team's results when they're published in a peer-reviewed journal. He's not necessarily expecting Gliese 581g to be yanked off the list of extrasolar planets, though.

"In 15 years of exoplanet hunting, with over hundreds of planets detected by our team, we have yet to publish a single false claim, retraction or erratum," Vogt said. "We are doing our level best to keep it that way."

Questioning the claim
Vogt's team announced the discovery of Gliese 581g on Sept. 29. The planet, about 20 light-years from Earth, is the first rocky, roughly Earth-size alien planet found to orbit its star in the so-called "habitable

zone" — a just-right range that can allow liquid water to exist.

Since then, the discovery has received a lot of attention, from both the media and other researchers. One group of astronomers, led by Michel Mayor of the Geneva Observatory in Switzerland, performed a follow-up investigation in an attempt to confirm the existence of Gliese 581g.

At an astronomy conference this week in Torino, Italy, the Swiss team announced that it could not confirm Gliese 581g or 581f, another planet Vogt's team discovered in the same system. Though the researchers did not refute the existence of either planet, they did confirm the other four previously found around the star.

Vogt said he wasn't overly surprised to hear the news, since the two newfound planets' signals were quite weak.

Similar methods, different results

Both research teams used similar methods — scrutinizing the parent star Gliese 581's movement, looking for the telltale gravitational tug of orbiting planets. And both teams analyzed some of the same data. Vogt's team looked at 119 measurements made by the HARPS instrument on the La Silla telescope at the European Southern Observatory in Chile, as well as 142 measurements from the HIRES instrument on the Keck I telescope at Hawaii's Keck Observatory. □

Mineros Chile se recuperan y empiezan disfrutar de fama

COPAPIO, Chile (Reuters) - Los mineros rescatados de las entrañas de Chile dejarán en las próximas horas el hospital donde pasaron su primer día en la superficie en dos meses, para retomar sus vidas ahora como celebridades.

Los mineros se recuperaban tras haber sido rescatados el miércoles del caluroso, húmedo y oscuro fondo de una mina del Desierto de Atacama, donde quedaron atrapados por un derrumbe durante 69 largos días que tuvieron en vilo al mundo.

En un emotivo y eficaz operativo, fueron extraídos en una estrecha cápsula por un ducto de más de 600 metros de roca sólida de las fauces de la mina, emergiendo como protagonistas de uno de los mayores hitos de supervivencia bajo tierra de la historia y encendiendo festejos a lo largo de todo Chile.

“Pensé que no iba a volver a ver a mi señora, no iba a poder ver nacer a mi hijo. Cuando rezaba, lo hacía por ellos dos”, dijo a la cadena estatal TVN por teléfono desde el hospital el minero Richard Villarroel, que ahora podrá presenciar el parto de su esposa.

El estado general de los sobrevivientes era tan bueno que los médicos podrían darle el alta a dos o tres mineros la misma tarde o noche del jueves si el protocolo lo permitía, según doctores del hospital de la ciudad Copiapó, vecina a la mina.

“Han evolucionado en forma muy favorable”, dijo en rueda de prensa Jorge Montes, subdirector del hospital de Copiapó donde los mineros fueron llevados después del rescate y pasaron su primera noche en libertad.

Sólo había un caso relativamente complicado, el de uno de los mineros de más edad, que sufre de silicosis -una enfermedad



El minero Mario Sepulveda describe experiencias del período en que permaneció encerrado bajo tierra en la mina San José frente al presidente de Chile, Sebastián Piñera (sentado, al centro) en el Hospital de Copiapó donde los 33 rescatados están siendo sometidos a exámenes médicos, oct 14 2010. REUTERS/José Manuel de la Maza/Chilean Presidency/Handout (CHILE)

respiratoria producida por el polvo de sílice de las minas y neumonía aguda. Pero el cuadro había sido controlado y los médicos aseguraron que el paciente respondía bien. Todos podrían estar fuera del centro médico junto con sus familias el fin de semana, de acuerdo con la directora del servicio de salud de Atacama, Paola Neumann.

“Es una alta probabilidad (que estén fuera el domingo) pero uno nunca puede dar en estos casos una probabilidad del cien por ciento”, sostuvo la doctora en la rueda de prensa. Los mineros habían sido trasladados en helicóptero al hospital, que el jueves estaba rodeado de vallas para contener a las personas y a cientos de medios de comunicación que convirtieron al rescate en uno de los sucesos de mayor audiencia global, según cálculos de ejecutivos de televisión.

Y el jueves pasaban tiempo juntos en una sala del hospital, leyendo sus historias en los periódicos.

“Me dijeron que estaba excelente (...), me invitó a una fiesta”, comentó Vicente Segovia después de hablar por teléfono con su hermano Víctor,

llamado el escritor del grupo de mineros porque registró en papel la odisea de más de dos meses desde el fondo de la mina San José.

Y sus escritos se los van a disputar ahora productores y directores para llevar la hazaña de supervivencia incluso hasta la pantalla grande.

CELEBRIDADES

Los sobrevivientes, que ya comenzaban a disfrutar estatus de celebridades, recibieron el jueves la visita en el hospital del presidente chileno, Sebastián Piñera.

Entre risas y bromas, el mandatario se sacó una foto con todos los sobrevivientes y los invitó a visitar la Casa de Gobierno el 25 de octubre. Pero no terminó ahí, puesto que además los desafió a un partido de fútbol con apuesta incluida.

“El equipo que gana se queda en La Moneda (palacio presidencial) y el que pierde vuelve a la mina”, dijo desatando risas Piñera, que ganó popularidad por el manejo de la crisis y estuvo fuera del ducto para abrazar a casi todos los mineros.

La fama que ganaron los hasta

“SABIA QUE IBA A SOBREVIVIR”

Uno de los primeros en dejar el hospital podría ser Luis Urzúa, el jefe de la mina de 54 años y el último minero en salir por el estrecho ducto el miércoles por la noche, en una operación de rescate ininterrumpida de 24 horas que habría costado hasta 20 millones de dólares.

“Lo vi muy bien, es una persona muy fuerte, no sé cómo describirlo pero yo como lo conozco de tanto tiempo sabía que iba a sobrevivir, sabía también que iba a salir último”, dijo Moisés Madariaga, minero y amigo de la adolescencia de Urzúa.

“Yo creo que entre hoy y mañana le darían el alta”, acotó.

Mientras los trabajadores se recuperaban en Copiapó, cerca de la mina, los chilenos abarrotaban los quioscos comprando diarios para llevarse un poco de este hito en sus manos.

Todo Chile había vibrado en la madrugada del jueves con el desenlace del rescate. Chicos ondeando banderas, coches tocando bocinas, mujeres y hombres con ojos húmedos y gestos de alegría festejaron el final del rescate en la mina del norte chileno.

“Estoy enormemente agradecido a Dios, vine aquí a celebrar desde Santiago. Yo creo que esta fiesta va a seguir”, dijo Juan Carlos Gómez, un joyero de 39 años que vio el rescate con miles de personas en una pantalla gigante en la plaza de Copiapó.

La esposa de uno de los mineros dijo que se estaba preparando una misa para el domingo en el campamento junto a la mina, que poco a poco estaba siendo desmantelado mientras las familias empacaban su felicidad y enfilaban a sus casas. □



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